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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, what's your level of optimism that you will get your rebate for the 2011 tax year?

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to cast your vote.

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ASIA

India successfully tests a missile that can reach China.

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OFF THE WALL

An Ohio man is accused of putting six puppies in a suitcase and leaving it.

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LIFE & STYLE

Dick Clark stood as an avatar of rock 'n' roll until his death.

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FUND, CHC CRISES IN PERSPECTIVE

'Worst time in CNMI history'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Fitial pressed to face public, make known his plan of actions

Not including the devastation caused by World War II, this may be "the worst time in CNMI history," according to officials and residents yesterday as they called for both the Fitial administration and the Legislature to stop their name-calling and "making fun of the crises" and instead work together.

For the first time in CNMI history, a government instrumentality—the NMI Retirement Fund—has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and a government hospital teeters on the edge of a shutdown.

This is on top of the 20-percent work hour cuts, power disconnection at some units of public schools and the hospital, a government budget that is down to half of what it used to be, political bickering that has reached fever pitch, and immigration woes that are hobbling efforts to reinvigorate the economy.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's allies and foes at the Legislature agree on at least one thing: It's time for the governor to face the public and make known his plan of actions to help stem the crises at both the Fund and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Fitial

Among the longest serving lawmakers—Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan)—separately said the CNMI has gotten to its worst state since the war.

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EMERGENCY DRILL

Responders during the 2012 Triennial Airport Disaster Training Exercise lift a "dead body" after a 767 aircraft from Alaska "crashed" at Runway 7 of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 8:59am yesterday, "killing" 42 passengers and "injuring" more than a hundred others. Over a hundred emergency responders participated in the drill conducted by the Commonwealth Ports Authority Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting unit. The triennial emergency drill is a requirement of the Federal Aviation Administration.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

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MPLT releases full loan to hospital

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» Housing perks, payroll today for corporation personnel

Babauta

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. transferred yesterday to its account not only the scheduled $500,000 drawdown from the Marianas Public Land Trust but the full balance of its loan amounting to $2 million.

Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta said that MPLT board chair Pedro Guerrero wrote the check directly to the corporation late Wednesday and the amount was deposited yesterday into the organization's account.

The direct turnover of the check from MPLT to the corpora-

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Babauta: ICS contract no sweetheart deal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» Fitial expected to mediate between Buckingham, Babauta

While admitting that the International Consulting Services LLC contract was executed outside the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency declaration, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta maintains that it wasn't a "sweetheart deal."

In a news briefing yesterday, he said the contact was done "nice and clean" and aligned with the healthcare corporation's own policies and regulations.

Babauta also said that ICS' contract was presented, discussed, and consulted with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, corporation legal counsel James Kearney, as well as representatives from Medicare and Medicaid during a

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Hearing on Fund bankruptcy motions today. PAGE 3
Employers to hear from USCIS today on CW update. PAGE 5

Local

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Car rental owner scammed by ex-convict

Police arrested Wednesday night an ex-convict who allegedly stole $500 from a car rental owner by deceiving the businessman that he could help him recover the passports and other belongings that were stolen from a group of Chinese honeymooners.

Cheyenne P. Sablan, 29, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday morning to face a charge of theft by deception. His bail was set at $5,000 cash.

The scam came about after four Chinese tourists lost their passports, cash, and other items, to burglar/s at Ladder Beach on March 30, 2012.

According to police, QQ Car Rental owner Zi Jian, also known as James Han, had called Annie Crisostomo to ask for her help in recovering the items stolen from his four customers.

Crisostomo allegedly told Han she knew nothing about the burglary but that she was willing to help him recover the stolen passports. Crisostomo explained how burglars would break into the vehicles, take the money, and throw the rest of the stolen items in the jungle.

Han, Crisostomo, her boyfriend Sablan, and a QQ Car Rental employee proceeded to Ladder Beach on April 1 and searched the jungle but failed to find the passports.

Han paid Crisostomo and Sablan $10 for their assistance and told them that he was willing to pay $100 for each of the four passports and another $100 for the aircraft pilot license that belonged to one of the victims.

On April 2, Sablan allegedly called Han, saying he knew the person who has the passports and that the person is demanding $400 in exchange for the passports or $500 for the passports and the other stolen items.

Han turned over the $500 to Sablan at a parking lot of a store in Koblerville. Sablan left and never returned. Han called Sablan's cell phone and a man answered. The man said that Sablan told him that he was only given $50 instead of the agreed upon $500.

Han later found Crisostomo but she told him that Sablan was not there. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Judge orders equal contribution rates for autonomous agencies

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo granted yesterday the request of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Development Authority, and Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to be treated equally with the CNMI government when it comes to employer contribution rates.

Govendo reduced the employer contribution of these autonomous agencies to its previous rate of 30 percent—a rate similar to the one set for the government.

The judge said that under the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan, the government and autonomous agencies are treated as a single employer.

While the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and government's contribution rate is currently set at 30 percent, CPA, CUC, CDA, and NMHC are remitting their employment contributions at the new rate of 60.8686 percent.

In his ruling yesterday, Govendo agreed with the intervenors that if they are required to pay the 60.8686 percent employer contribution rate, their mission and services to the Commonwealth will be compromised as rates for doing business will increase.

Govendo said any rate increases at CPA, CUC, CDA, and NMHC arising from paying 60 percent employer contribution "will further weaken this economy and cause further grief to all people, including pensioners." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Hearing on Fund bankruptcy motions today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood has scheduled a hearing today, Friday, on all the motions filed by the NMI Retirement Fund related to its Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

The hearing will start at 10:30am before a judge that will be assigned by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Tydingco-Gatewood also granted yesterday the request of two lawyers from a Boston law firm to be admitted to practice in the CNMI for the sole purpose of representing the Fund as its bankruptcy counsel. Jeremy B. Coffey and Steven D. Pohl of the Brown Rudnick law firm were told to associate as co-counsel with attorney Braddock J. Huesman, one of the Fund's legal counsels.

Citing "spousal interest in the Fund, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona had recused herself from presiding over the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy case. Manglona's husband, CNMI associate justice John A. Manglona, is a member of the Fund.

The Fund filed its bankruptcy petition on Tuesday, together with several motions. Among the motions is a request to allow the Fund to pay, for a period of two months from Tuesday, 100 percent of the full amount of benefits owed beneficiaries.

The other motion seeks an order authorizing the Fund to maintain existing bank accounts and continued use of its cash management system; continued use of existing business forms; opening a new debtor in possession accounts; and foregoing bond requirements for investments.

The Fund also wants the court to allow it to retain, employ, pay, and reimburse for expenses certain professionals used in the ordinary course of Fund business.

The other motion seeks a court order that will allow the Fund to pay the wages, salaries, and other compensation of its pre-petition employees; reimburse pre-petition employee business expenses; pay pre-petition tax and other withholdings; contribute to pre-petition employee health and other benefit programs; and pay workers' compensation obligations and other insurance premiums.

The Fund also seeks a court order that will give it more time to file its schedules of assets and liabilities, schedule of executory contracts and unexpired leases, and statement of financial affairs.

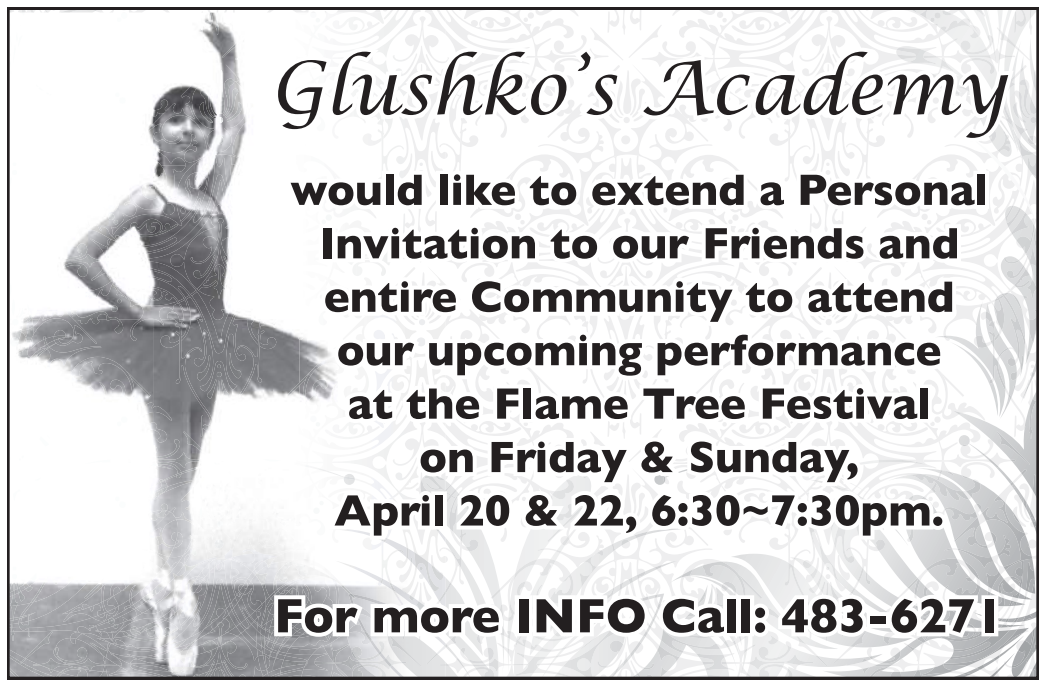
Free business workshops

The CNMI Small Business Development Center and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting free workshops:

- How to start a business: April 24, May 22, and June 18
- How to write a business plan: April 25, May 23, and June 19
- How to apply for a bank loan: April 26, May 24, and June 20

All workshops will be held at the Chamber office on the first floor of the Familia Building in Garapan, from 9am to 11am.

Deadline for pre-registration is 12:00pm, one day before workshop. For more information contact Ralph or Linda at 664-3018. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities must be made 72 hours in advance. ***(SBDC)***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Hyatt hosts 5th Roasts, Reds, and Rendezvous

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Hyatt Regency Saipan will be having its 5th Annual Roasts, Reds, and Rendezvous at its various dining outlets from April 20 to May 25 but this year will have a unique twist.

Roasts, Reds, and Rendezvous offers Hyatt diners a sumptuous dining experience with dishes featuring Certified Angus Beef, paired with Kendall-Jackson wines.

Executive chef Gabriele Colombo said the mouthwatering Certified Angus Beef will be featured in beef entrees at Giovanni's, where prime cuts will be fused with Italian spices and sauces; at the Teppanyaki Grill, where the finest sirloins and steaks will be prepared in front of diners; and the Kili Café & Terrace, where savory beef delights will be available at its popular dinner buffets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

"This is a fantastic promotion," said Hyatt Food and Beverage director Michael Wilson. "We're on our fifth year and we're just getting stronger and stronger."

According to Wilson, this year would be the first time that Hyatt will not kick off 'Roasts, Reds, and Rendezvous' with a big shindig. Instead, they will have the big celebration when they wrap up the monthlong promotion on May 25 at Giovanni's.

Moreover, it will not be the usual cocktail style but a sit-down, seven-course Grand Finale Gala Dinner that will start with Russian-standard vodka martinis and finishes off with coffee laced with Patron XO Café.

"It's our first time to do the dinner course and it's a great atmosphere for people to sit around in tables, enjoy fantastic food and wines, and have a lot of fun," said Wilson.

Wilson noted that all menu selections for the 5th Annual Roasts, Reds and Rendezvous are "very reasonably priced," and Club at the Hyatt cards are welcome.

"It's a really popular event so it's going to book fast. We encourage you to give us a call and make reservations for your table," added Wilson.

The 5th Annual Roasts, Reds and Rendezvous is from April 20 to May 25. For reservations or inquiries, call 234-1234 Ext. 26.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

conference in San Francisco in February.

Despite the existence of Public Law 16-51 and the establishment of the corporation's own personnel and procurement regulations in January 2012, Babauta said that Attorney General Edward Buckingham still saw otherwise.

Granted that there is "deficiency" in the contract, as Buckingham claims, Babauta believes this could have easily been corrected during the emergency declaration when all laws and regulations are suspended or through a simple internal correction.

"We consider the ICS contract as a work in progress. If the AG still has problems with it, he can still sign it either during emergency state or through regular process internally. We can do this because the corporation has its own personnel and procurement policies and regulations. That's why we we're able to implement the emergency reduction in force," he said.

Babauta said if he, as CEO, has the authority to hire and fire people, it is the same power that allows him to sign contracts—with or without the review of the attorney general.

Governor's intervention

Fitial met with Babauta and key management officials as early as 7am yesterday to discuss the condition of the hospital, according to Babauta.

He said he asked the governor to again declare a state of emergency for CHC. This, he said, is now under the governor's review. "We're very hopeful and optimistic because the governor understands and is fully aware of the serious condition of the hospital. He's looking into the extension of the emergency declaration," he said.

The governor, he said, is expected to "mediate" between him and Buckingham to come to the table. When and where that will happen, Babauta doesn't know.

Buckingham ordered Babauta to stop the ICS contract within 45 days. But Babauta confirmed that the contract is ongoing and is hopeful that any "problems" the AG may have with the contract will be fixed with the expected emergency re-declaration.

WORST

From Page 1

Manglona said it's about time the House of Representatives act on a Senate resolution asking the governor to deliver a State of the Commonwealth Address.

"It's the governor's opportunity to step up to the plate and prove he means well and that he has plans for the Commonwealth as its leader," he said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the "Fitial administration has hurdled many challenges since assuming office."

"Governor Fitial remains committed to continue working with all stakeholders to address current challenges," he added.

Fitial has never delivered a SOCA since he got re-elected and has only been sending financial reports to the Legislature every end of the year.

"The public needs to hear from the governor himself as to what the true state of the Commonwealth is and his administration's plan," said Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and others also called for the governor to deliver a SOCA and present his plan of action.

Reyes said most lawmakers want to work together with the governor but they want to know what his action plan is.

"There's lots of interest for the governor to deliver a State of the Commonwealth address. This seems to be the appropriate time for that," he said.

Reyes said the CNMI is at least "a bit lucky" that the Fund only filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and not for Chapter 7 or liquidation of assets, or receivership.

He, however, said the Fund should have at least told the Legislature about it prior to the actual filing because lawmakers have been working on bills to help the Fund.

Reyes said the Senate president also has bills and initiatives to help the Fund but most of these are just sitting at the House. One of these initiatives is the transfer of assets such as the Mariana House in Washington, D.C. to the Fund.

"Every little bit helps. They will all add up and we could fix the problems," he said, adding that legalizing casino gaming on Saipan will help, albeit not immediately.

Reyes disclosed the possibility of having another House bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan, and is challenging Rota senators to hold a public hearing on the bill on Rota. The Senate has already killed two House casino bills.

As of yesterday, Fitial said he does not favor an additional $7 million line of credit for CHC. That $7 million line of credit is contained in a "compromise" bill that House and Senate conferees are now working on to prevent a hospital shutdown.

Fitial also said he's been working with the Fund and the Commonwealth Retirees Association to improve the defined benefit plan or possibly turn to the U.S. Social Security Administration.

He reiterated that he supports the Fund's filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy for restructuring, but he won't support liquidation of assets.

To prevent another round of power disconnections in schools and the hospital, he has asked the Office of Insular Affairs again to reprogram some $3.5 million in capital improvement project funds, including those for the Puerto Rico dump closure, for utilities payments for CHC and the Public School System.

Fitial is also pushing for a fee simple acquisition of public lands by existing hotels and golf courses which he said could bring $300 million to $400 million in fresh revenues.

The governor is also pushing for the legalization of casino gaming on Saipan.

CRA board member and former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente said yesterday that the governor's proposals could be worked had he stopped name-calling people and making fun of the crises and started working not only with the House but also the Senate.

"It's called leadership," he said.

Benavente said that if Fitial couldn't even work well with his lieutenant governor, Eloy S. Inos, "then how could we expect the lawmakers and the public to work with him?"

Benavente asked retirees to call on Fitial to resign because of the Fund crisis, along with calling for the Fund trustees to also step down.

Fitial, in an interview yesterday, said Benavente should be "educated" and thinks Benavente "got contaminated with Tina Sablan's disease, stomach ache" and should therefore also "drink milk."

"He should be educated. There's freedom of speech so I'm also invoking my freedom of speech," Fitial said.

Benavente, in response, said the governor seems to always consider everything a "joke" and resorts to name-calling instead of responding with solutions to the crises.

"So there's more reason for him to resign. He's also responsible for not letting the Legislature and the public know about the Fund's bankruptcy filing plan before they actually filed it. He knew about it," he said.

Manglona pointed out that in other states and territories, governors would immediately face the public, including through televised address, every time there's a major crisis that hits the area.

"But the governor is once again showing his lack of leadership," he said. "I have been saying it all along that because the governor is not able to address the financial crisis at CHC, the Retirement Fund and PSS, he should step aside and let the lieutenant governor take over."

Manglona said "never in the history of the CNMI has a government instrumentality filed for bankruptcy," whether it's for restructuring only or for liquidation.

"Unfortunately, this will go down in history as his legacy as governor. The governor has not been able to work with the Legislature to help CHC and the Retirement Fund," he added.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) believes, however, that no amount of SOCA would help.

"I think the people already know and feel the state of the Commonwealth and I don't believe that any address by the governor is needed at this time. With regards to any action plans, I don't believe there are any by this administration or the leadership of the House," he said.

Fitial, lawmakers clash on $7M for CHC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial does not agree with lawmakers in giving the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. $7 million line of credit, but the governor asked the Office of the Attorney General yesterday to review the possibility of again placing CHC under a state of the emergency.

Fitial said his emergency declaration that expired early this month already "enabled me to take $3 million from MPLT [Marianas Public Land Trust] to finance the corporation's operations. So that's all they're going to get," Fitial said in an interview yesterday.

A six-member conference committee from the House and Senate are now working on a "compromise" bill to authorize MPLT to provide a $7 million line of credit to CHC to prevent it from shutting down.

"They don't need $7 million because if they managed their financial affairs, they will be able to save $7 million from the management," Fitial said, indicating that he may not sign the bill into law.

Press secretary Angel Demapan late yesterday afternoon said the governor "has asked the OAG to look into the declaration of a second state of emergency for CHC."

"The OAG is currently addressing this matter. Further update will be made as it becomes available," he added.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said he hopes the governor changes his mind and support the compromise bill out of the Legislature.

Cabrera postponed yesterday's House session to wait for the conference committee report. He said the House leadership is poised to pass the latest version of House Bill 17-278, which Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) introduced in December.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Senate leadership is also supporting the bill out of the conference committee.

"Just two months ago, the governor said he's supporting the original version of HB 17-278. Now that there's a compromise bill, he's not supporting it. Now that CHC, the doctors, and the CEO are saying they need that $7 million, he does not want it. He doesn't seem to see the urgency of the situation," Manglona said.

Senators wanted increased accountability.

"Why now?" the governor asked. "They abandoned them. And now that I'm helping them they want to be part of it."

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), co-chair of the conference committee, said the Senate did not abandon the hospital and all along wanted CHC to have a line of credit with MPLT.

MPLT

From Page 1

tion bypasses the process of having the money coursed through the Department of Finance, as was required in the memorandum of agreement for the loan. The move also allowed the corporation to leapfrog over Attorney General Edward Buckingham, who has allegedly been blocking further drawdowns on the loan due to more documents he was requiring Babauta to submit.

"The [memorandum of agreement] is just that. If I should be held in violation of it, I will take responsibility! Yes, it [transaction] is an inter-agency one and that's how the money was transferred to us," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The delay in the release of the scheduled $500,000 drawdown resulted in an emergency meeting Tuesday night at CHC, with MPLT officials in attendance.

Babauta said it was at that meeting that the MPLT trustees decided to "directly" provide the loan to the corporation.

According to Babauta, he understands the government's desire to account for all monies that go to the corporation but pointed out that having a clear expenditure plan, audit reports, and regular monitoring will allow the corporation to account for every penny it gets.

"I don't understand why it should go from MPLT to Finance and then to the corporation. That is such a bureaucratic process. It could easily have gone from MPLT to CHC and that's it," said Babauta.

Payroll out

Babauta said the payroll for all employees on three islands will be released today, including a one-month housing allowance for those who were hired from off-island. Due to the lack of budget, the housing perks have been delayed for five months.

Alvaro Santos, the corporation's chief financial officer, said the payroll cost today is $850,000, including personnel allotments. The housing allowance amounts to $134,000 this payroll.

Santos said it is the corporation's aim to pay all the delayed allotments and housing allowances, little by little, until all obligations are satisfied.

The corporation's personnel cost amounts to $1.7 million a month.

Santos said that obligation to various vendors, now amounting to over $5 million, will also be paid, bit by bit, until everything is settled.

The delays in salaries and late remittance of personnel allotments has prompted a U.S. Department of Labor investigation, which is ongoing.

Employers to hear from USCIS today on CW update

"What are the challenges faced by U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services before approving a CW-1 petition?" "How long does it take to approve a CW-1?" "Can USCIS make it less burdensome for employers to provide 100 copies of the same document to comply with a request for evidence?"

These are some of the questions that employers will get a chance to directly ask USCIS today when the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management hosts a forum with USCIS regional director David Gulick at the Napu Room of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio from 9am to 10:30am.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will also host a luncheon forum with USCIS' Gulick from 11:30am to 1pm today at Azucena I and II at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

The Chamber said that Gulick will provide members a status report on the ongoing CNMI CW-1 visa application process and address current concerns from CNMI employers.

Only 13 percent or 1,507 of 11,695 foreign workers petitioned have so far been approved, almost five months since the deadline of Nov. 28, 2011.

Some businesses also want to know from USCIS the requirements for processing "new" employees, and whether the last employer of record or current employer is responsible for the repatriation costs of terminated or resigned foreign workers.

The Chamber asked members to submit questions beforehand. But there should be additional time at the end of Gulick's presentation for more Q&A.

The CW-1 immigration forum is $20 for Chamber members and $30 for non-members. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Two women robbed in Kannat Tabla, Garapan

A female cashier was injured during a store robbery and a woman lost her money and other items to a snatcher in separate robbery incidents Thursday night last week on Saipan.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said yesterday that the NMI Crime Stoppers Program is seeking the community's assistance for information on the two robbery cases.

Tarkong said a 57-year-old cashier suffered minor injuries to the head in the robbery at Cery Store in Kannat Tabla. She was treated at the scene by emergency responders.

Tarkong said that three unidentified persons dressed in black masks and black clothing entered the Cery Store on Thursday, April 12, at 7:33pm.

The first suspect approached the cooler area of the store while the two other suspects approached the victim at the counter.

The second suspect, who was armed with a butcher knife, walked around the cashier counter and grabbed the victim by her hair. The second suspect then slammed the cashier's head against the counter thrice, causing her to lose consciousness. When she regained consciousness, she saw the suspects fleeing the store. One suspect ran west while the two others ran east. The robbers reportedly took off with $500 cash.

In the Garapan robbery, Tarkong said a 32-year-old Chinese woman was robbed of her purse on Thursday, April 12, at 11:24pm, near Capitol Bowling.

Tarkong said the victim was walking east along Orchid Street by the 3JM Vegetable Fruit Market when an unidentified man began walking behind her. Upon reaching the Capitol Bowling Center area, the suspect grabbed the victim's purse and fled west in the direction of Winchell's.

The victim was not injured. Her purse contained $15 cash, a CNMI driver's license, and a bicycle padlock.

Tarkong said the suspect was described as possibly a local male, with short hair, and wearing a black shirt, black jeans, and slippers.

"The Department of Public Safety and Crime Stoppers need your help. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest," said Tarkong. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Memorial service, Mass today for Marine killed in Afghanistan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A memorial service and Mass will be held on Saipan today in honor of the late U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Ramon Taisakan Kaipat, 22, who will be buried in Tacoma, Washington State, his relatives said.

Kaipat was killed on combat patrol in the Helmand Province in Afghanistan on April 11, bringing to 16 the number of CNMI sons and daughters who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the wars against terror since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Neischangpi Satur, first cousin of the late Marine, said yesterday that the family and relatives of Kaipat are inviting the public to the memorial service at 4pm today at Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

The memorial service will be followed by a Mass at 5pm.

"He's born and raised here, and he has lots of connections with the people here. We are inviting those who know him and others to join us at the memorial service and Mass," Satur told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said there will be a memorial service in Tacoma around 11pm Friday, Saipan time.

Satur said when she first heard the news of her first cousin's death she thought it was a dream, only to be reminded by her family that "he's really gone."

"He's always been humble and easygoing. We will miss him I only read about stories of what's going on out there and I never thought it would happen to us. It's hard to grasp, and I still can't believe he's really gone," she said.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) also reminded House members to join the memorial service. Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said senators will also be attending.

The late Marine and his family left Saipan in 2004 to live in Tacoma, Washington.

Kaipat attended Oleai Elementary School, Hopwood Junior High School, and Marianas High School on Saipan. He finished high school at Mount Tahoma High School in Washington State in 2007. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2008.

Suspected 'ice' trafficker falls

Police arrested in Fina Sisu Tuesday afternoon a 54-year-old man for allegedly trafficking in methamphetamine or "ice."

Edward Mendiola was taken to the Superior Court yesterday morning for a bail hearing on charges of trafficking and illegal possession of a controlled substance. His bail was set at $30,000 cash. Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg served as his counsel.

Police detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that two "cooperating sources" told detectives that Mendiola is active in selling "ice" within Fina Sisu village. The two "cooperating sources" informed the detectives that they managed to buy $100 worth of "ice" from Mendiola on Nov. 2, 2011.

The CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau did a sting operation against Mendiola on Nov. 9, 2011. Castro said they were able to buy $100 worth of "ice" from Mendiola at his residence in Fina Sisu, using one "cooperating source." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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TRIENNIAL AIRPORT DISASTER DRILL

42 'dead' after jumbo jet 'crash' on Saipan runway

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A jumbo jet with more than 100 passengers aboard "crashed" yesterday morning at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport runway, "killing" 42 and injuring scores more.

This was the scenario of a training exercise conducted by the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Aircraft and Rescue Fire Fighting department during its 2012 Triennial Airport Disaster Drill.

James Diaz, chief of the CPA-ARFF, said the exercise is a requirement of the Federal Aviation Administration to test the CNMI's capability in responding to emergencies and disasters. FAA requires the disaster drill every three years on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Based on the drill scenario, a Boeing 747 jumbo jet originating from Alaska was making its final approach onto Runway 7 at the Saipan International Airport at 8:59am. The aircraft had 148 people onboard and 12,000 lbs of fuel left. As it touched down, the left landing gear collapsed and the pilot lost control. The aircraft then skidded to the left of the runway onto the grassy area. The speed and force of impact caused the aircraft to flip when it hit the drainage and came to rest after taxiway D on the open field. A large explosion was heard and a large fireball and black smoke were seen by tower controllers. The site had fuel, debris, suitcases, bodies, and passengers all over the wreckage.

In the scenario, tower controllers immediately called ARFF dispatch via hotline and declared Alert Level III.

At the "crash site," over 100 responders from various government agencies were seen performing their roles to save as many lives as possible.

Just a few meters from the "crash site" were the command post; the mini-hospital site with triage and holding areas; and the emergency operations center where various agencies' representatives, ports officials, and evaluators were monitoring the incident.

Other agencies and groups such as American Red Cross, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Public Safety personnel, and other agencies also responded to the "emergency."

25 medical staff deployed

According to Warren Villagomez, Division of Public Health director for emergency preparedness, 25 medical personnel were dispatched to the area to provide immediate assistance.

He said 20 "victims" were taken to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room, while 42 "passengers" were declared dead on site. The rest of the "victims" suffered minor injuries and were treated at the mini-hospital.

Villagomez said that all doctors and nurses on the day's shift at CHC were on "standby" for the incident.

"This drill is very important to the public health because it tests our capability in responding to an emergency. It also tested the in-house coordination on our part," he said.

Successful drill

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero was very pleased and satisfied with the overall turnout of the exercise, which also saw the participation of 120 volunteer students from Marianas High School who acted as victims.

"This is testament that when we put resources and knowledge together, we can do something very successful. We need to be ready and prepared in actual emergencies and that's the goal of [yesterday's] exercise," said Deleon Guerrero.

He said the CPA-ARFF spent a couple of months putting together the disaster plan in coordination with partner agencies and attributed its success to the "coordinated efforts" of all participants.

Besides the over 100 responders and volunteers, also present at the drill were evaluators who will put together a report next week for full review.

Deleon Guerrero said they will concentrate on the "weak areas" that may be noted in the evaluation for corrective actions. Full report will be sent to FAA in three months for evaluation.

A similar disaster drill is scheduled on Tinian next week while Rota did the same exercise last year.

According to Deleon Guerrero, yesterday's incident was documented for use in training CPA's counterparts in Micronesia. CPA-ARFF is authorized to provide training to airport personnel in the region.

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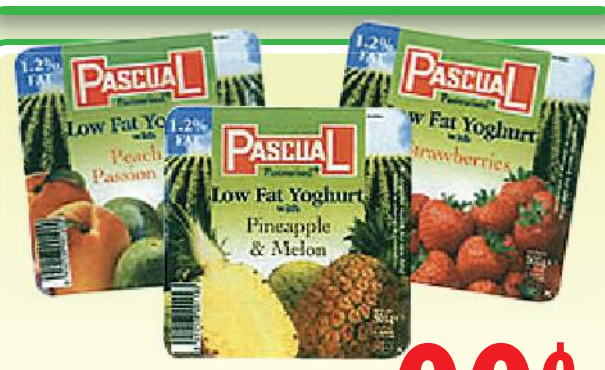

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Reports say Japan to station troops on Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Japanese media reported yesterday that the Japanese government is planning to station its own self-defense forces on Tinian where two-thirds of lands are already leased by the U.S. Department of Defense from the CNMI government.

But press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the Fitial administration is not aware of such plan by the Japanese government.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta to renegotiate the existing land lease on Tinian because he said none of Defense's promised developments on Tinian has materialized for 35 years.

However, some 200 U.S. Marines from Japan will be training on Tinian in May, the first major military training on the island for at least a decade.

One of the Japanese media reporting on the issue of having a Japanese military station on Tinian is Nikkei news agency, quoting unnamed sources. It reported that no final decision has been reached yet but its sources said Japan would lease a portion of the U.S. Defense-controlled land on Tinian and rotate Japanese military personnel from all three Japan Self-Defense Force branches—ground, sea, and air.

Nikkei said Guam was also considered, but space constraints led to the selection of Tinian, one of the major islands in the CNMI.

Tinian played a pivotal role during World War II. It was the launching pad for the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, hastening the end of the war.

Just last week, Japanese media also reported that Washington, D.C. is considering Tokyo's proposal to shoulder part of its expenses for the development of a U.S. military base and related facilities on Tinian.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* reported that "Tokyo apparently made the proposal to fend off Washington's demand that Japan increase its share of the costs of the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan. The realignment is currently under review." The Japanese media quoted sources close to Japan-U.S. relations.

Fund names members holding largest unsecured claims

» Members asked to volunteer on committee of creditors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has named members that are holding the largest unsecured claims in the pension plan who will become part of the committee of creditors that will work with the Fund in formulating plans and proposals for the bankruptcy court.

The Fund, based on court documents, said the primary creditors are individuals to whom benefits are to be paid, at varying levels, over varying periods of time. In its court filing, the Fund indicated that it is not currently available to determine which of its creditors would be entitled to the largest recovery on account of their claims.

Thirty-one members, for now, have been identified for the purpose of filing and more members are encouraged to volunteer to join the beneficiaries' committee at the forum Tuesday night at the American Memorial Park.

Based on court documents, the creditors committee has an initial 31 members: four from Class 1 retirees; five from Class II retirees; three from disability beneficiaries; three from survivors' beneficiaries; four from Class 1 active members; eight from Class II active members; and five from inactive members.

During Wednesday night forum, Fund representatives led by board legal counsel Viola Alepuyo pointed out that those on the list may not have been contacted yet about their inclusion in the creditors' committee until they confirmed and approved their participation. She encouraged more creditors to come forward and volunteer for the post.

For Class I retirees, the members initially identified as part of the committee are Ruth Tighe, Edward E. Manibusan, Lucia Norita-Shilling, and Christopher Deleon Guerrero.

For Class II retirees, listed were Donna J. Cruz, Herbert D. Soll, Manuel A. Sablan, Santiago F. Tudela, and Susana C. Tenorio.

Representing the disability recipients are Edith D. Cruz, Richardo K. Omar, and Ricardo Camacho. The survivors have Juan A. Camacho, Natalia M. Magofna, and Huixia L. Matagolai.

Class I active members include Oscar C. Camacho, Joseph M. Pangelinan, Tyce J. Mister, and Mark Staal. For Class II active members, listed are Lourdes C. Atalig, Rosita R. Benito, Juan B. Cepeda, Manny N. Fitial, Jose A. Lizama, Juan F. Rabauliman, Patrick O. Taitano, and Oscar L. Takai.

For the inactive members, listed are John O. Taitano, William F. Camacho, Michael J. Leyden, and Srinivas Doraswamy.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Fund filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which allows the reorganization and restructuring of the pension agency. During this period, all decisions that will impact the Fund's assets will depend on a bankruptcy court that may continue or freeze the assets of the pension agency.

The Fund has about 6,000 active retired members and has an estimated $253 million in assets as of February this year.

MMAC Team Bodig to hold coin drive

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Bodig will be holding a coin drive fundraising beginning 3pm today, April 20, at the Microl Toyota traffic light intersection in San Jose.

"This activity is just another example of Team Bodig's untiring efforts in raising badly needed funds for the fight against cancer. All proceeds raised at this event will be donated to the Marianas March Against Cancer so we encourage the entire community to drive on by and donate whatever funds they can," said 2012 MMAC overall committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the largest cancer fundraising event in the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the signature fundraising activity of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that ensures all funds raised are spent entirely in the CNMI on cancer patient support services, cancer awareness programs and other cancer-related activities. For more information on the CCA call 682-0050, email cca@ccamarianas.org or visit www.ccamarianas.org.

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on April 27-28 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. ***(MMAC)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 20, 1999

SC starts $15M Hillblom hearing

Associate Justice Alexandro Castro presided yesterday the preliminary distribution of the Hillblom funds among heir claimants. With lawyers coming from the mainland and the Philippines gathered at his sala, he said it was the day that everybody looked forward to. "I will call this as the $15 million hearing," he said.

Governor cancels trip after Chinese incursion

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio canceled his trip to Majuro for the annual meeting of the Micronesian chief executives to allow him focus on taking care of illegal Chinese nationals who being sheltered temporarily on Tinian. The CNMI leader was supposed to leave for the Marshalls yesterday, but instead sent his special assistant for policy and research, Mike Malone, to represent him in the gathering of the region's leaders. "I decided to cancel my trip because I want to attend to this pressing problem. I just want to make sure that everything is okay," Tenorio said in an interview.

Apr. 20, 2000

Businessman admits faking documents

A Filipino businessman yesterday pled guilty to a count of health care fraud before the U.S. District Court, two days after his wife admitted guilt for the same charge in connection with government health insurance funds. Emmanuel Silvino, manager of MegaPlus International CNMI Inc., a physical therapy service provider, told Judge Alex R. Munson that he was responsible for fraudulent records submitted to the CNMI government to collect insurance claims between June 1997 to December 1999. "As manager, I allowed my staff to submit altered documents. I didn't have the will to bring this matter to authorities to stop this at once, " he said.

Greenpeace: Tanapag is a toxic hot spot

Greenpeace has asked the U.S. government to clean up Tanapag which has been contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) as it declared the northern coastal village in Saipan a toxic hot spot. "The U.S. government owes it to the people of Tanapag to clean up the mess left from its activities in the Pacific. Since the PCB contamination was discovered 10 years ago, the remediation effort has been pitiful," said Maureen Penjueli, Greenpeace toxic campaigner. Greenpeace, an environmental group, is highlighting Tanapag as a global hot spot in an effort to bring the issue to the world's attention. Just like the residents of the former U.S. military bases in the Philippines, "the people of Tanapag deserve answers to their many questions about the health impacts of the contamination, the effect on their food supplies, and the best way to safeguard themselves from further problems," she added.

Apr. 20, 2001

CDA readies legal action against CUC

Two major government agencies in the Northern Marianas are likely to face each other in court as the Commonwealth Development Authority prepares strong legal actions against the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. Executive Director MaryLou S. Ada disclosed yesterday that all legal avenues are now being explored by CDA's legal counsel Vicente Salas, after CUC stubbornly insisted that it is not obliged to pay anything to the government-controlled lending agency. In fact, Mr. Salas has already established a strong court case against the power corporation regardless of its claims that the existing loan agreement is not binding. Ms. Ada said there is a loophole in the Special Representatives Agreement which CDA can use in order to collect from CUC. She added that the court battle will force CUC to pay its outstanding loan amounting to $150 million.

House balks at suspension of stay limit law

The House of Representatives yesterday rejected the Senate version of the repealer on the three-year stay limit law, which only grants temporary suspension of its implementation. Instead, the lower house tossed the issue to the conference committee because of the need to come up with a more concrete measure that will revive diminishing investor confidence in the Northern Marianas. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial appointed House Committee on Commerce and Tourism Chair Florencio Guerrero to head the conference panel to deliberate on the proposal adopted by the upper house.

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Beef Feet	$7.99
Beef Shortribs	$15.99

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- Whole Chicken 30lbs $37.99 LIMIT
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- Beach Cliff Sardines 99¢
- Century Tuna 89¢ 7 OZ.
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- Vlasic Sliced Dill Pickle $5.99 1 GAL.
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- Dinty Moore Meatball Stew $1.69 15 OZ.
- Royal Spaghetti Noodle $2.49 1 kg.
- Excellent Rice Stick 99¢ 227G
- Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce (all kinds) $1.59 26.5oz.
- Del Monte Whole Corn 99¢ 15 OZ.
- Kellogg's Tri-pak $12.99
- General MIlls Tri-pak $8.99
- Argo Corn Starch 99¢ 1 LB.
- Gold Medal Flour $3.49 37.02 OZ.
- Pancake Mix $2.79 18.25 OZ.
- Duncan Hines Cake Mix $1.99
- Quaker Oats (Oatmeal) $4.49 42 OZ.
- Tang Orange $7.99 22 QTS.
- Kool-Aid $7.99 34 QTS.
- Coffee Mate $7.99 50 OZ.
- Folgers Coffee $8.79 12 OZ.
- Folgers Coffee $11.99 33.3 OZ.
- Maxwell Coffee Mix $8.49 100CT.
- Country Lime Lemonade $7.99
- Dragon Vegetable Oil $9.49 1 GAL.
- DelMonte Ketchup $4.69 2 64 OZ.
- Foremost Milk $20.99
- White Sugar 2kg $2.79 2 KG.
- Kruataia Coconut Milk 99¢
- Happy Time Assorted Cookies $6.49
- Golden State Vinegar $3.99 2 1 GAL.
- Wilkins Water $2.99 6000ML
- Pringles (All Kinds) $1.99
- Shim Ramyun Noodles Soup $11.49 CASE

BEVERAGE

- Kool-Aid Jammers $3.25 BOX
- Sunkist $6.99 CASE
- Ruby Kist Apple Juice $3.99 64oz.
- Ruby Kist Orange Juice $4.49 64oz.
- Western Family Cola $3.25
- Pepsi Lite Can $11.99 CASE LIMIT
- Jinro Soju $29.99 CASE
- Hite Can $16.99 CASE

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- Potato 79¢ LB.
- Cabbage 89¢ LB.
- Korean Pear $2.99 LB.
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- Orange 99¢ LB.
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- Gain Liquid $6.49 50 OZ. $10.99 100 OZ.
- Gain Powder 120 loads $16.99 50 OZ.
- Joy Ultra $1.49 12.5 OZ. $6.99 90 OZ.
- Huggies Big $18.99 BOX
- Luvs Big $17.99 BOX
- Drypers Convenient $5.75
- Luvs Baby wipes $11.99 432PCS. $6.39 216PCS.
- Bounty Paper Towel $19.99 15 Rolls
- Bounty Paper Towel $8.99 8 Rolls
- Dawn Dishwashing Soap $8.99 90 oz.
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EDITORIAL

Better health, fewer tests

When nine medical societies announce that at least five common practices in each of their specialties are unnecessary, wasteful or even harmful to patients, everyone should take note.

Everyone—patients, doctors, the health-care industry, insurers and various levels of government. The point the societies are making is not that we should ration medicine but, rather, tailor the care to the individual patient's particular health needs and medical and family history.

That would be a significant departure from simply ordering high-tech tests or prescribing certain medicines even when experience dictates they are not necessary, can be harmful and only add to the health-care bill.

Yes, the mention of cutting costs in health care stirs an unlovely stew of suspicions, each supported by some semblance of fact: insurers protecting profit and high salaries, "defensive" medicine in this litigious age, hip-pocket needs of doctors, drug-company advertising promoting costly "cures" that aren't, demanding patients, government interference in medical practice, and more.

The outrage over recent recommendations for fewer mammograms and Pap smears for many, but not all, women (again, depending on their individual history and medical protocols) was telling in its emotionality and in the ferocity of advocacy groups.

Yet, the fact remains: Americans spend much more on health than other countries without return for that extra investment. One estimate is that one-third of the $2 trillion spent annually on healthcare is wasted. Just half of that one-third estimate is a scandal.

So the conversation about finite resources and promise of better care with fewer procedures or medicines is too important to ignore as just one more report, one more recommendation.

Under the guidance of a foundation connected to the American Board of Internal Medicine, the nine societies representing 375,000 doctors in specialties and general medicine each chose five common practices that are widely used but contribute little to improved care. Eight more societies will release their top five wasteful practices in the fall. These lists are hardly inclusive of all wasted dollars.

The lists range from giving chest X-rays to all people having outpatient surgery and CT scans after a simple episode of fainting to routine cancer screening tests to dialysis patients who are expected to die soon. (See www.choosingwisely.org.)

What makes this effort noteworthy are twofold: The recommendations come from doctors, not government panels so unpopular in this age of backlash against government, and the doctors are joined by Consumer Reports and 11 consumer-oriented groups. Their participation is intended to promote awareness of overtreatment.

The societies are encouraging patients, doctors and other healthcare professionals to talk about the health risks of overtesting or taking certain drugs. Changing doctors' customary practice and patients' expectations will be hard work with shared responsibility.

The participating medical societies and consumer groups would honor their own hard work on this initiative with regular updates on how well, or not, their guidelines are working.

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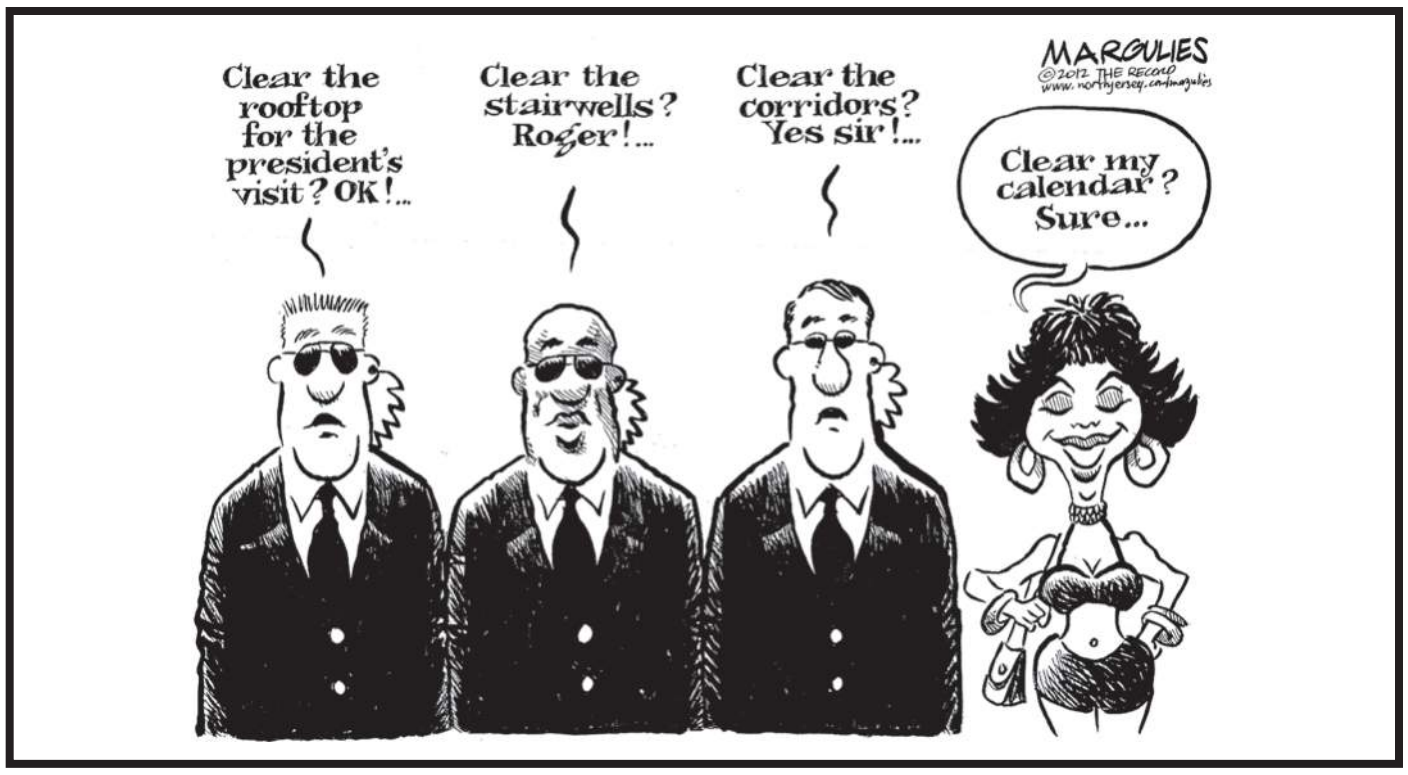
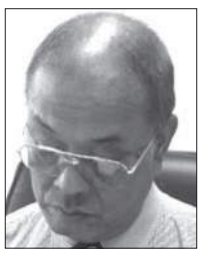


Egregious indecisions



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

My support for the implementation of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program doesn't convert my conservative views into one of a liberal progressive. But it's vital to point out to our elected and appointed elite of life in paradise they've turned into a hellish hole for grandly failing governance.

Comparative analysis has been done and it shows that SNAP would spur economic activities when consumers (SNAP recipients) begin spending at local grocery stores and vendors by the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

There's the empty ideological and philosophical assertion of becoming a "nanny island state." Well, the program requires recipients to search and find meaningful employment in about two years. That doesn't leave much room to detrimentally rely on a perceived largess from Washington. You secure help but must in turn help yourself out of the program.

The problematic issue is simple: Would this administration spur sufficient economic recovery to grant these recipients a shot at earning their dues? This is the greater question that places a challenge on the elected and appointed elites to resolve. If this doesn't materialize, then and only then can we call these isles "nanny island state." But guess who introduced such embarrassing state of affairs: Leadership who failed their people in "wealth and jobs creation."

It makes sense to introduce SNAP now for the following substantive reasons:

Work hour reduction is an issue employees could claim under SNAP. NAP doesn't allow any room to maneuver under the prevailing austerity measure.

This privilege allows victims of austerity to claim what they're denied in order to ably pay for their utilities and other familial obligations, i.e., real estate loans for the first family home

It would grant the 6,000 retirees some breathing room for survival when they receive the last of their pension checks. It's SNAP that would cover the inadequacies of this administration that simply decided to quit remitting its share to the imperiled Fund.

If income limit on Guam is anywhere between $3K to $4K a month, then it simply means more help for a large group of underemployed and unemployed. Is this the perceptual fear of this administration? Is it a justified fear when most people in the villages are truly underwater? And please note, most aren't munching and slurping on cholesterol loaded lobster or steak fat either. Most are dealing with breadcrumbs and leftovers re-cooked to make ends meet.

This administration can't ignore the fact that small businesses, the backbone of the local economy, have consistently shut their doors because it's no longer profitable doing business here when utilities are prohibitively high.

As this phenomenon occurs translating into far less revenue and jobs, severe unemployment would force more people to relocate elsewhere. Some 2,000 plus of our own have already left the island over the last several years when employment and other opportunities contracted beyond their wildest imaginings. And this is supposed to be home.

■ ■ ■ ■

Blame it on the cha-cha-cha

Oooops! The boys at the Legislature just approved allowing active Fund members to withdraw 50 percent of their contributions. Understandably, the money belongs to vested members, but wouldn't this fast track the demise of the Fund by doling out some $113 million for this purpose?

■ ■ ■ ■

Concerning the decision by the board of the Retirement Fund to file for Chapter 11, the former chair said everybody must now get together to help the Fund. Excuse me, sir! Why must we partake in resolving a mess created by this administration for failing to pay employer's contribution since fiscal year 2006? It's all about leadership competency, isn't it, sir? So why haven't you told the governor in no uncertain terms to start paying? Your fanciful and irrational excuses led to the bankruptcy of the imperiled Fund. Why skirt the issue? You've vacillated over loyalty between your boss and retirees a bit too long. It's called weak-kneed decisions, sir!

■ ■ ■ ■

Feud of the Month: The Senate president refuses to meet with the governor. The latter asserted that the former ought to visit his office for a meeting "because the people are suffering." The obvious question is: Under whose charge? Is it Paul's or Nigno's?

■ ■ ■ ■

It isn't surprising that this administration has imposed tyranny, preying upon the ignorance of retirees they wish to subjugate. Knowing that it is easier to deprive people of their rights if they are unaware of their rights, it often forsakes its responsibilities in order to further its own political goals. In other words, it seeks to preserve ignorance, rather than advance knowledge. Nice try!

■ ■ ■ ■

Threats from political dinosaurs

Magoo and Magee moved to the edge of their seat when Republican and Covenant incumbents started discussing how to rebuild and grow the economy.

As the conversation ensued, their minds were racing through the hallmark or legacy of incumbency—a do-nothing bunch that left governance in hopelessness and abject poverty.

Said Magoo: "Surprisingly interesting that these guys now have the energy to discuss a complex issue that has sailed above their heads since three years ago."

"It's election year and the guys are trying to figure out if there's such a thing as the sixth sense in regurgitation, you know, juggling the same issue hoping for different answers."

"Isn't that what Einstein called 'insanity'?" quizzed Magoo.

"Forgive them, pal, for they know not that they know not and rambling seems the safety valve to unload their ignorance," said Magee.

"We once had hope that in spite of the tough times, the elected and appointed elite would be more than able to burn the midnight oil employing tough minds to domesticate loss of major investment," related Magoo.

"But then how do you pound a sense of urgency to brace for any further investment loss when the effete are inebriated by their *mañana* attitude, leaving fiduciary responsibilities to the birds," noted

See EGREGIOUS on Next Page

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Revenge of the Saipan Sign Squiggle Squad

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Let's go old school for starters: One of my first impressions of Saipan was the mysterious signs with their exotic squiggles. That gig went from abstract to real when I was carousing with some friends one evening, all those years ago, wandering from one place to another along Beach Road. We weren't making much progress, though, since everyone except me was engrossed in trying to decipher the Asian signs.

Back then I couldn't even tell the difference between Chinese, Japanese (which incorporates some Chinese), and Korean scripts. Talk about a Saipan newbie, eh?

As for my new friends, all of whom had a smattering of Eastern language skills, they'd stop in front of any store showcasing Asian script. Me, I'd skulk in the background, hands jammed into my pockets, feeling impatient to get moving to happy hour. But everyone else would be arrayed in front of the script, gawking at it like biologists inspecting a new species of bugs in the field.

"What's that character mean?" someone would say.

"I think it means 'shrimp,'" someone else would say.

"No, it means 'humane,'" was another opinion.

"Actually, I think it means 'kernel,'" was another idea.

"I think it means 'two people,'" came a final suggestion.

Egads! Which is it? After all that gawking and study and discussion, you'd think they'd figure it out, right? Wrong. Yet the wide range of opinions seemed to meet some secret standard for consensus. For those in the Saipan Sign Squiggle Squad, there was apparently a plane of logic invisible to other people, a plane on which Shrimp/Humane/Kernel/Two People are acceptably interchangeable concepts.

Strange? Yes. And hopeless? Entirely. It was like watching people trying to eat soup with chopsticks.

I thought it was just some weird Saipan affliction, perhaps one that came from too many days going hatless under the tropical sun. But, whatever the reason, I knew that at least I would never (never!) turn into one of those Squiggle gazers, ensnared in a trap of knowing just enough about the script to be intrigued, but not enough to be functionally literate.

Yes, a sorry fate indeed.

But so much for old school. I'm done with that narrative flashback, which brings me to last week.

Last week my wife and I arrived at a restaurant 30 minutes too early for dinner. And I knew just the way to kill that half-hour: A nearby store had a window festooned with mysterious Chinese writing, and, with Chinese dictionary in hand, we went full-bore trying to piece the puzzle together.

You might want to know how I happened to have that dictionary in the car. Answer: It's always there.

Yes, talk about all the zeal of a convert. I am now a senior officer in the Squiggle Squad. I can amuse myself for a long time trying to decipher Chinese signs. It drives some of my friends absolutely bonkers, as they mark time, impatiently, hands jammed into their pockets, waiting for me to finish my sign meditations so we can continue on our way.

"So, Ed, what's it say?" they'll ask.

But they're not asking because they care. No, they're asking as a way of prodding me to get going, and they're usually too polite to kick me in the kidneys to make the point.

"Well, I think it says either 'East Bank' or 'Car Movement,'" I'll answer.

"How on earth can you associate those two possibilities?" they'll ask.

"Dunno," I'll say, guarding my kidney zone just in case, "but it was fun to figure it out. Oh, hey, there's another sign, let's go take a look."

Yep, soup and chopsticks. Chopsticks and soup. That's me.

The interesting (if only tragically so) thing about this gig is that I am not making any progress at all. None. For every character I finally learn, another one drops off the mental conveyor belt. It's a zero-sum game. Which means that I am now condemned to a lifetime of Squiggle gazing: I'm too stubborn to quit the game, yet too stupid to graduate from it.

Trapped, I tell ya'. Trapped!

America's new love affair with the French—c'est estrange

By ANDREW TREES
NEWSDAY

I almost spit out my tarte Tatin when I came across Karen Le Billon's new book, "French Kids Eat Everything." It was published this month, close on the heels of the February release of Pamela Druckerman's "Bringing up Bebe," about how the French are superior parents. Not since Rousseau penned "Emile" has there been this much enthusiasm for French parenting.

Just a few years ago, we were force-fed "French Women Don't Get Fat," by Mireille Guiliano—which, if you've ever visited Euro Disney, turns out to be less than accurate.

What's next? A paean to the French tendency to forgo deodorant for l'odeur naturel? This rampant francophilia is a disturbing upheaval in an otherwise long and stable history of mutual disdain.

Oh, sure, we had our good times. The French helped us throw off the yoke of British tyranny with some timely aid during the American Revolution, and Alexis de Tocqueville was kind enough, in his classic 19th-century text "Democracy in America," to explain us to ourselves in ways that we still find useful.

The French also gave us the Statue of Liberty, which remains probably the greatest housewarming gift of all time. And, ever since the publication of Julia Child's "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" in 1961, the French have ruled our kitchens, freeing us from the tyranny of British cooking. (To be fair, though, we are like the Labrador puppies of cuisine and have happily embraced any food that has washed up on our shores as long as it has taken us further away from British boiled beef.)

Mostly, though, we've settled into a proper amour, which is to say very little amour at all (if we don't count our cookbooks).

There was the task of bailing the French out of two World Wars, which caused resentment on both sides. And the French kindly served us the amuse bouche of Vietnam. Our frenemy status was solidified when the French turned up their aristocratic noses at membership in NATO, despite the lack of any apparent ability to defend themselves.

We were happy to return the favor. When they refused to join the coalition against Iraq, we renamed French fries "freedom fries" and started calling French toast "really good toast."

We knew where we stood. The French were happy to take our tourist dollars and sneer at us as ugly Americains. We were happy to see the glories of French civilization and then hurry home, where the people were so much nicer.

And if anyone indulged in the guilty pleasure of a love that dare not speak its name, it was the French with their increasingly gluttonous consumption of le Big Mac and American movies and American words, even as the elites tut-tutted that this was a shameful degradation. Once they planted Mickey Mouse and the Magic Kingdom right next to Paris, the one-sided love affair was too obvious to ignore, and even French President Nicolas Sarkozy was happy to declare his admiration for America.

What the recent French parenting and lifestyle books reveal, though, is that the worm has turned. With a rampant love of all things French that would have made Thomas Jefferson blush, we now rush to embrace the least cultural habit of the French as if it were the wisdom of Moses. How to be thin, how to raise our children, how to eat ...

Enough, I say! This warning may be too late. We may already have fallen under the sway of Gallic charm. We could soon be faced with a society of thin women and well-behaved children who are happy to eat sweet breads on a bed of mache. And then we will no longer have any idea who we are.

At least we can still turn to de Tocqueville. He's always had a knack for explaining what it means to be an American.

Andrew Trees is the author of The Founding Fathers and the Politics of Character. *Readers may send him email at ast4g@yahoo.com. He wrote this for* Newsday.

Letters to the Editor

Northern Islands: Pristine natural wonder or trash can?

As much as it pains me to yet again reject an attempt at recovering our economy, I cannot in good conscience let this proposal go unchallenged. The pristine natural beauty of the Northern Islands is one of the few unique treasures that the CNMI possesses.

We already have one of our islands being periodically blown to bits by the military; we cannot barter off another of our natural wonders for a bit of cash. Yes, this could potentially line some people's pockets and maybe give some people jobs but there is something about using a paradise as a dumpsite that rubs me the wrong way.

I have always dreamed of going to the Northern Islands. I have imagined them, listened eagerly to accounts of those who have been there, and studied photos and satellite images of them. They are perfect the way they are. I will not suffer a blemish of this nature scarring the serenity of Pagan, or any other northern island for that matter.

I thank our leaders for trying to find a way out of our economic woes but this particular solution is unacceptable. Find another way. Promote the Northern Islands for what they really are—treasures, not trash cans.

Edward W.S. Camacho
Kagman II, Saipan

A bunch of rejects

I always say that children are the reflection of their parents. The CNMI people is a reflection of the CNMI government. Well, some may agree with me while I am sure others will not. Many of us forgot that in CNMI history, there were several hundred prisoners who were dumped here in the CNMI and perhaps that place where they dumped this bunch of criminals was on Saipan. Tell me if I'm wrong. I am sure the list of last names may cover all the names of the present and past leaders who held or are holding offices. At the time of dumping, there were maybe Carolinians already present. Afterwards another offloading of Filipino prisoners dumped by the then Spanish government of the Philippines. God help our CNMI.

It will be an impossible task to have a good government in a country full of criminal bloodlines who taught everyone around them how things should be done. Remember, these people I am talking about is you and me and everyone in the CNMI that is not a newcomer. I may be wrong but in history, prisoners from Spain were normally those against the establishment of the time, they were deported to Saipan and perhaps other dumping grounds. England at similar periods deported their unwanted to the Americas. So what a bunch of rejects we are. God help us. No wonder why we cannot get along, we even taught the poor Carolinians our ways, see what they are doing to us right now. Look at the governor and look at the people. I don't see any difference.

Frank Atalig
Sinapalo, Rota

EGREGIOUS

From Page 10

Magee, adding, "it's sickening, isn't it?"

"You have to remember that most of these folks aren't necessarily people of substance other than their special ability to sport dismissive arrogance, confident that voters have no choice but to prolong the status quo for political dinosaurs," said Magoo.

"That's the dangerous aspect of the prevailing attitude where voters complain of 'do-nothings' but partake in prolonging the agony by voting for the same bunch of incompetents time and again," said Magee.

"This self-inflicted mess must change and only governance or the voters can inflict it by proactively embracing the tip of their pencils as the real agent of change," related Magoo.

"What then could we do when failure is repeated once more by our voters?" asked Magee.

"I'm optimistic things would change for the better. I'm also a staunch believer that the dark precedes the bright lights of dawn."

It need not be this way if only we could calm down and smell the scent of freshly mowed grass around the yard by sticking to fiduciary responsibilities.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

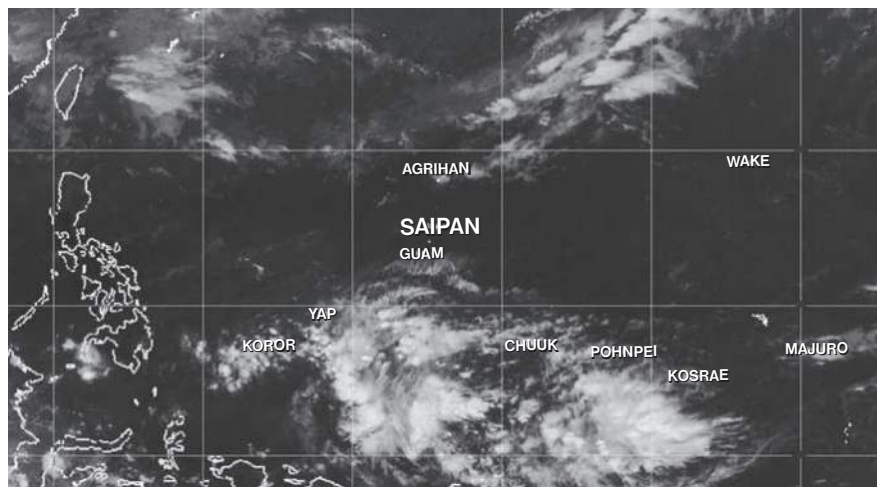
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲92	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲66	▼56
Beijing	Showers	▲70	▼54
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲78	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼70
London	Showers	▲54	▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲85	▼60
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼81
Melbourne	Showers	▲79	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲83	▼73
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼56
Osaka	Showers	▲65	▼55
Paris	Showers	▲54	▼42
Pusan	Showers	▲61	▼54
Rome	Showers	▲64	▼49
Salem	Showers	▲70	▼46
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼60
Seoul	Showers	▲66	▼51
Tokyo	Showers	▲60	▼54
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼60

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from west of Minami Tori Shima at 25N151E to west of the northern CNMI at 19N140E then continues westward as a stationary front to beyond 130E at 19N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 280 miles north of this boundary. Converging winds southeast of the cold front are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Minami Tori Shima north of a line from 21N151E to 24N160E. Isolated thunderstorms are found farther south over the northern CNMI between 17N and 19N from 145E to 148E and also farther east or north of Wake Island within 55 miles of a line from 23N164E to 25N166E. A surface trough runs northward from 3N137E to 11N135E. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen near the trough axis over Koror and Yap within 75 miles of a line from 7N134E to 10N139E to 8N144E. Another surface trough reaches northward from EQ145E to 6N146E. Low-level convergence associated with the trough is coupling with upper-level divergence to create numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms well south of Guam or south of a line from 5N139E to 7N144E to 10N144E to 8N149E. Strong trade-wind convergence is generating numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei or south of a line from 7N150E to 3N162E farther east. Widely scattered showers are present just east of Majuro within 140 miles of a line from 6N173E to 8N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
7:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:55 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:58 AM	5:42 PM
Saturday	5:37 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	7:19 PM
Monday	7:00 AM	8:08 PM
Tuesday	7:45 AM	8:58 PM

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

We just want our contributions back

Dear attorney general or whoever can answer us: Yesterday the board of trustees invited all members of the defined benefit plan to hear our input on the filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and some members raised concerns whether this is constitutional—that the board can file for bankruptcy without notifying the members whose livelihood would be gravely affected.

One member is really intimidated with their explanation where the attorney said we don't have a bankruptcy court. Other members are very disappointed that they can't withdraw their money. Even without interest or share, they just want their money back. Other members want to know their rights to their contribution. Another wants to know if they can stop the allotment from their paycheck so that they can save their money in the bank. All these and many more.

Sir/madame, or your honor if you're a judge, isn't the board of trustees supposed to protect our rights too? Because their answers to the questions sounded unconstitutional to us, especially when the board filed for Chapter 11 without consulting us.

It is sad that the retirees have two months of full pay left and after that they need to wait for the board to ask for an extension. Some members are the sole providers for their family members who have chronic illnesses and can't work, others have loans or children still in school. In just two months, if they don't come up with something, how are these people going to live? This decision is grave and not planned well.

As one of the attorney said, he is from the mainland and doesn't know much about us. He is only here to address the Chapter 11 filing. We too don't know them and we don't know how much money they're planning to take from us for their fees. What are our rights in this? What we want is someone who can calculate and explain to us what is going on with our money and where does each and everyone stand. We don't want attorneys anymore; we just want to know where each and everyone individually stand.

Please, your honor, what are our rights, since they said we can't take our money until a committee comes up with a plan to restructure. Listening to the forum, the Fund members seem to be divided into two groups: those who want their money back and those who are retired and are hoping to get paid until the day they die. It is going to be impossible to come to an agreement, especially when there are two groups with different views.

For our side we want our contributions only (what was deducted from our paychecks) and leave the interest for the retirees and let the lawmakers and governor pay the rest of these retirees. We certainly don't want to be responsible for killing them. We just want to help them by pulling out and leaving the interest for them.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Representing everyone's interest

This is in response to Francisco R. Agulto's letter to the editor (A New Delegate, *Saipan Tribune*, April 13, 2012), where he stated, "As a voter and in answer to his probing question, who is best to represent the CNMI and the indigenous people of the Northern Mariana Islands?"

First of all, the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan represents the interest of all ethnicities on our island chain and not only for the interest of the local population. Based on my knowledge, Mr. Sablan is mandated by law to represent anyone who lives within his district and he has to entertain anyone within his district who asks for his assistance relating to federal jurisdiction or matters.

We had volunteered to different non-profit organizations in the United States, dealing with individuals with their issue involving the Internal Revenue Services, Immigration Naturalization Services, Social Security Administration and the so-called Aid to Family with Dependent Children, etc. The first thing we usually do was communicate with the federal and state elected officials in the State to solve our clients' or constituents' dilemma. Based on our past experience, it takes four to six months for any elected officials in the United States to reply to our request on behalf of our clients. Honorable Sablan broke the U.S. Congress' record by acting on our request less than 24 hours when his office received our inquiries or complaints. Our Delegate acted to protect our interest immediately and he was not mandated to do it expediently.

You do not have to compare Honorable Sablan's accomplishments with another delegate from the CNMI, because Mr. Sablan has accomplished more for his constituents in the CNMI than majority of the U.S. Congress in the United States. We have dealt with the U.S. Senate, Congress, and the California Assembly in the past relating to issues affecting our constituents or clients throughout the U.S. mainland, the State of Hawaii, the territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. So we can justify that the Honorable Sablan has acted above and beyond for the people he represents.

Mr. Agulto, we are entitled to our opinion and we have freedom of speech, protected by the U.S. Constitution. We respect your rights, but at times we need to stand up and do what is right for our society as a whole. We have no political affiliation, but we give credit to individuals who earned it and the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is one of them.

Segundo Castro
San Jose Village, Tinian

2012 DISCONNECTION DATES

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of these business days

January 20 • February 27 • March 20
April 20 • May 23 • June 20 • July 20
August 22 • September 20 • October 24
November 21 • December 20

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IT&E Life in Motion

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau/Tinian/Rota Office– up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Memorial rites for Kaipat

Kaipat

The public is being invited to join a Memorial Ceremony to honor the late Marine Lance Cpl. Ramon Taisacan Kaipat at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 4pm today, April 20, 2012. The Memorial Ceremony will be immediately followed by the celebration of a Holy Mass at 5pm. ***(PR)***

Calling families of fallen heroes

The CNMI is celebrating Memorial Day on May 28, 2012, 9am at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery. The CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs director will be paying tribute to our fallen heroes and he inviting the immediate families of our fallen heroes to join the community in paying tribute to them. The immediate family is being asked to call the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs office to RSVP. For more information call 664-2650, 2659 or 287-5351. ***(PR)***

Kindergarten registration at SVES

San Vicente Elementary School Registration for school year 2012-2013 is scheduled to begin on May 14-18, 2012 for (Kindergarten) from 9am through 11:30pm in the school main office.

For all kinder: Child must be 5 years on or before Aug. 31, 2012, as per BOE policy. Date of birth must be between Sept. 1, 2006 and Aug. 31, 2007.

Registration requirements: birth certificate, health certificate, health/accident insurance, map of residential location; power of attorney/legal guardianship (if applicable), copy of report card, and unofficial transcript with the address and phone number of the last school attended.

For more information, contact the school at 237-3791. ***(PR)***

Kagman High School notices

This is to inform parents and or guardians of Kagman High School students that the SAT10 is to be administered to 9th and 11th grade students the week of April 23 through 27—next week! Kagman High School's goal is to get 95 percent in student attendance on this week so test results will be comprehensive of student achievement this year. Please make sure to send your child to school daily and on time.

Early dismissal for next week Monday, April 23, through Thursday, April 26, 2012. Student dismissal at 1:35pm.

Progress report distribution is set for May 2, 2012, from 3pm to 5pm. Half-day schedule for students. Dismissal at 12:45pm. ***(PR)***

House vice speaker on *Marianas Agupa*

This Saturday, April 21, 2012, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogomoro to talk about House Bill 17-226 that would have allowed current government employees to withdraw up to 50 percent of their retirement contribution without resigning from their current work. Ogumoro will go on air between 10am and 10:30am. The show itself starts at 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show. Direct to studio at 234-5929 or use the *Marianas Agupa*'s Facebook account via instant messaging.

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and features reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Rota correspondent Thomas D. Mendiola, Tinian correspondent David M. Cing, and a special segment called Hafa Mohon with Juanita Mendiola. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

Lost puppy

Lost: A 5-month-old German Shepherd puppy—brown with black spots and wearing a blue collar with dog tag no. 3565.

He answers to Tobang. Last seen around Papago/I-Denni Hill area by Betbena Drive on April 11. The puppy needs his medications. Reward offered by owner. Call 989-8469. ***(PAWS)***

NMC-CREES hosts goat workshop today

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service is inviting members of the Tinian community to attend a free workshop to learn about goat management and nutrition. The workshop is today, April 20, 2012, in Room F at the NMC Tinian Instructional Site. Lecture is from 9am to 12pm, and the field tour and forum is from 1pm to 4pm. For more information, contact NMC-CREES at 234-5498 ext. 1707/1708. ***(PR)***

Public library to close of inventory

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed for its annual inventory from April 26 to April 30, 2012. Normal library hours will resume Tuesday, May 03, 2012. Sorry for the inconvenience. ***(PR)***

KagES calendar for April

Kagman Elementary School would like to inform all parents and guardians of the following important events for the month of April:

- Friday, April 20, 2012: Report card day, 1:30-3:30pm.
- Friday, April 20, 2012: Early dismissal. 1st-6th grade, 12pm; Kindergarten, 10:30am.
- Month of April: Registration for all grades ***(PR)***

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Ford Feel the difference

Soft opening tonight for arts fest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival hosted by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture will kick off with a soft opening tonight at 6pm at the Civic Center Park in Susupe.

It is the biggest annual festival celebrating the rich art and cultural heritage of the Commonwealth and is free to the public.

The three-day festival will have its official opening ceremony tomorrow, April 21, at 10am. The ceremony will serve as "an opportunity to welcome island leaders, off-island guests, and the general public who will join in the festivities," according to Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog.

Hocog noted that the opening ceremony will also serve as a venue for the announcement of winners for the 3rd Annual CNMI Art Competition sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC, a "Pacifica" or major sponsor of the festival.

"Everything is set for the festival and we're very excited to celebrate the CNMI's rich art and cultural heritage," said Hocog. "We have lined up an exciting program that the public can enjoy."

The annual festival will feature 56 booths of local and visiting artists, showcasing a wide selection of artwork using different mediums and offering varied price ranges to suit anyone's taste and budget.

A total of seven food vendors will also set up booths at the event to offer all kinds of festival food for spectators.

Hocog also encouraged community members to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win great prizes, including the grand prize of round trip tickets to the U.S. mainland from another major sponsor, Delta Air Lines. Tickets will be available at the festival committee booth during the event for $1 each.

"On behalf of the festival committee, we invite everybody to join us in the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival. Let's all 'Be A Part' of the efforts to promote, preserve, and perpetuate our island heritage," said Hocog.

For more information, visit Arts Council next to the post office in Capital Hill or call 322-9982 or 83.

CULTURAL CENTER ACTIVITIES

Atmadyas and folded paper sculptures

The Tinian Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center is offering free lesson to Chamorros and Carolinians on making *atmådyas* this Saturday at the Tinian Senior Citizen Center Pavilion. The lesson will start at 9am. Bring your children so they, too, can learn the traditional ways of the Chamorros and Carolinians.

On Saipan, the Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters is offering free lesson to Chamorros and Carolinians on making folded paper sculpture. This is good for teenagers and young adults to learn as a money-making activity. The activity starts at 9:30am and is held at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters at 1213 Capitol Hill Road, across from the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the Board of Parole Office.

The activities on Tinian and Saipan are offered by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Community and Cultural Affairs, Office of the Mayor (Tinian), and the Indigenous Affairs Office (Saipan), and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 433-9220 on Tinian and ask for Raymond Sablan; 322-0278 on Saipan. ***(PR)***

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DEQ hosts 1st Environmental Film Fest and Zero Waste Picnic

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Environmental Quality is partnering with the National Park Service, Coastal Resources Management, and the CNMI Humanities Council for the 1st Environmental Film Festival and Zero Waste Picnic.

The event is part of the Environmental Awareness Month celebration and will be held at the American Memorial Park outdoor amphitheater starting today at 6:30pm and will continue tomorrow from 10am onwards.

The Environmental Film Festival and Zero Waste Picnic will offer films that highlight different issues relating to the environment, said DEQ's Emanuel Borja, who chairs the Environmental Awareness Month committee.

Borja said the outdoor events will coincide with a zero-waste picnic wherein attendees are encouraged to bring their dinner in reusable or compostable containers to reduce trash on island.

"We will be providing water, recycling bins, and a compost area, but we will not be providing trash receptacles or cups," Borja told *Saipan Tribune*. "We would like this event to be as eco-friendly as possible."

The schedule today will begin with the zero-waste picnic kick-off at 6:30pm followed by the screening of the featured film *Addicted to Plastic* at 7pm.

For Saturday, April 28, the films are divided into categories. Films from 10am to 1pm are for younger audiences, starting with *The Lorax*, the 1972 animated film based on the book by Dr. Seuss at 10am; *The Man Who Planted Trees* at 10:45am; and *DisneyNature's Oceans* at 11:30am.

The 2pm matinee screening will feature *Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific*, a documentary about traditional ocean navigation and the life of Mao.

Films under the "Regional Shorts" category will be shown from 4pm to 6pm. They are *Fanihi: A Cultural Digest* at 4pm; *Talakhaya: A look at the Rota Revegetation and Luta Livelihoods Project* at 4:15pm; *Home for Hawksbill* at 4:30pm; *Micronesia's Changing Climate* at 5pm; and *The Voices of Laolao* at 5:30pm.

The zero-waste picnic on Saturday will also take place at 6:30pm followed by the screening of the feature film, *The Disappearing of Tuvalu*.

"All of the screenings are free and open to the public," said Borja.

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Last week of April is proclaimed MMAC Week

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is joined by 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer committee members, Commonwealth Cancer Association board members and staff, community volunteers, and supporters for a group photo following his signing of a proclamation that declared April 23 to 28 as MMAC Week at the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe yesterday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday proclaimed April 23 to 28 as Marianas March Against Cancer Week to heighten awareness of one of the top two leading causes of death among men and women in the CNMI.

"I encourage all members of the community to celebrate the week by honoring survivors of cancer, commemorating those who have passed on from cancer, and learning as much as possible about preventing this deadly disease," said Fitial as he signed the proclamation at the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe.

Members of the 2012 MMAC committee, officers and staff of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, cancer survivors and supporters witnessed the event hosted by the Joeten Charitable Foundation.

According to the American Cancer Society, close to half of men and over a third of women in the U.S. will develop cancer during their lifetime but the risk can be reduced by embracing a healthier lifestyle.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is a volunteer-led, non-profit organization that strives for a cancer-free CNMI through awareness and outreach programs in the community and provides patient support services.

CCA's main funding source is the MMAC, a 12-hour overnight event featuring teams under different categories as they compete for various awards, including most money raised, most laps, best baton, best tent, most luminaries sold, and most team spirit. The 2012 MMAC will be held on April 27 to 28 at the Hopwood Jr. High School field in Chalan Piao.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the event, which also features a survivor's relay and dinner and a luminary lighting ceremony in honor of those who have battled and are still battling cancer, and those who have passed on from the disease.

"Without MMAC's committed volunteers and the concerned community, CCA would not have been able to provide services for the cancer patients and their families. There is much left to be done, so we count on the support to continue," said David B. Rosario, CCA board president and MMAC senior advisor.

Rosario said that being a part of CCA and MMAC has allowed him to witness how volunteers have changed, with more youth being involved and "thinking out of the box" to help cancer awareness efforts in the community.

Rosario commended the 2012 MMAC committee led by chair Catherine Attao-Toves for doing "an excellent job" this year.

"We're looking forward to a successful 10-year anniversary this year," Attao-Toves told *Saipan Tribune*.

While she noted the need to double their efforts given the two-fold increase in the number of cancer patients that CCA served in 2011, Attao-Toves also pointed out that they are filled with an "overwhelming feeling of appreciation" for the support they have received this year.

In fact, they expect to sell 2,100 luminaries and the close to 2,000 raffle tickets they have printed are almost out. Sales for MMAC's 10-year signature shirt at $10 each are also doing well, she added.

"We haven't lost our focus on why we're here: to continue our fight against cancer," said Attao-Toves.

THE SEASON OF 'ROASTS, REDS AND RENDEZVOUS'

The 5th annual 'Roasts, Reds and Rendezvous' event at Hyatt Regency Saipan

Hyatt Regency Saipan and Certified Angus Beef® proudly present two outstanding menus as part of the 5th annual 'Roasts, Reds and Rendezvous' promotion from 20 April, throughout Golden Week until 25 May 2012 in Giovanni's Restaurant and Teppanyaki Grill.

A LA CARTE SELECTIONS AT GIOVANNI'S

Giovanni's is offering a la carte selections of the most tender, succulent beef combined with exquisite Italian flavours prepared by Hyatt's Chef Colombo.

SET MENU AT THE TEPPANYAKI GRILL

Teppanyaki is offering a delicious set menu of Japanese - Western fusion cuisine, prepared in front of guests on the teppan.

All dishes are expertly paired with fabulous wines from Kendall - Jackson.

KILI CAFÉ AND TERRACE

Succulent Certified Angus Beef® will also be served on our popular buffets in Kili Café and Terrace on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

ROASTS, REDS AND RENDEZVOUS - THE GRAND FINALE

Don't forget to book your table at the seven - course Grand Finale Gala Dinner in Giovanni's on Friday 25 May 2012 for a fantastic evening of entertainment, fine food and great wine.

For reservations please call +1 670 234 1234 ext. 26. Club at the Hyatt Cards welcome.

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Guam National Guard gets alert order for Afghanistan

The Guam Army National Guard has received the alert order for its 1-294th Infantry Regiment and F Company, 29th Base Support Battalion for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This alert order provides us the impetus to refine our plans for preparing our Soldiers, along with their families and their employers, the opportunity to organize their private lives for this upcoming deployment," said Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General for the Guam National Guard. "It also allows us to ramp up our training as more resources become available to ensure the overall readiness of our Soldiers for the mission."

The alert order is a step in the process leading to mobilization. It also gives the Guam Guard and the 1-294th Infantry Regiment and F Company the time and resources it needs to meet the training and validation requirements before the unit reports to its mobilization station, and completes training before deploying into their area of operations.

The next step is a mobilization order to be issued for the 1-294th Infantry Regiment and F Company. The mobilization order will also provide additional details such as date of mobilization, the specific number of Soldiers, and the missions for the unit.

The 1-294th Infantry Regiment and F Company are composed of soldiers from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The anticipated activation of the unit can be considered as the largest group of reserve component troops to be mobilized and deployed from Guam. ***(PR)***

Volunteer donates to SAAM 2012

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rhoda Brownstein, top left, a volunteer at the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, donates $1,000 to the group's effort for Sexual Assault Awareness Month this April. Joining her are the Coalition chairwoman Neda C. Deleon Guerrero, left, volunteer Reina Camacho, Coalition project coordinator assistant Keala Peters, Coalition secretary Eulalia Villagomez, project coordinators Angelyn Nimwes, and Kiki I. Benjamin.

The collaboration between agencies and organizations who work together for Sexual Assault Awareness Month this April is what inspired Rhoda Brownstein to donate her own personal funds.

Brownstein, a volunteer with the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, donated $1,000 last week to help with the group's efforts in promoting Sexual Assault Awareness Month this year.

"It is really wonderful to see these different agencies and organizations come together for this worthwhile cause, it really inspired me," said Brownstein. "The creativity and the energy that is being shared to bring the important message that it is time to talk about sexual assault to the community is amazing and I wanted to become involved."

The coalition is joined by Division of Youth Services, Domestic Violence Intervention Center, Department of Public Safety (Fire Division and Police Division), Karidat Social Services, Ayuda Network, the Family Violence Task Force, and the CNMI Judiciary to create the Committee that plans out the events and activities for the month.

From weekly awareness village walks on Wednesdays, Project Prom to the annual S.A.F.E. (Safe, Aware, Free, Empower) Jamboree, consisting of a softball tournament, Rock against Sexual Violence concert, SAAM 2012 is focusing on this year's theme, "It is time…to talk about it! Connect. Respect. End Sexual Violence."

Kiki Igitol Benjamin, a program coordinator at the coalition, is this year's committee chair.

"We are grateful for the efforts of all our partners and those of our volunteers, such as Rhoda. This is a community-based and community-owned effort and we are pleased to see more of our community being actively involved in our prevention efforts," she said. "We would like to extend our gratitude to Rhoda for her donation, it is much appreciated."

Volunteers are welcome at the coalition and for those interested in assisting may call 234-3878." ***(PR)***

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THE 21st ANNUAL VIOLIN RECITAL
April 28 & 29, 2012
Saturday & Sunday
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Gold Medal - Guam Tumon Bay Music Festival
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And Many More Winners Performe!
COMPOSITIONS BY POBLODE SARASATE, M. RAVEL, CAMILLE SAINT
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ADULT $10.00
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AGES 5-12

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Public Notice - Special Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT that the Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a special meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call

II. REVIEW & ADOPTION OF MINUTES

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

IV. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Hospital Contingency Plan
- B. Corporation Legal Counsel
- C. International Consulting Services Contract
- D. Reduction in Force
- E. Role of the Board
- F. Selection of Staggered Terms by Lot

V. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Next Meeting
- B. Adjournment

Students write their wishes for the environment at expo

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Upon learning of the impact of littering on the island's marine ecosystem, fifth grader Freddie Guerrero of William S. Reyes Elementary School vowed to pick up trash he sees lying around.

"I wish we don't have trash in the ground," wrote Guerrero in the wish banner at the exit of the 2012 Environmental Expo at the American Memorial Park on Wednesday.

Guerrero was among the over 500 students who visited the three-day expo on its second day and expressed their wishes for the environment after being educated about "green" issues and conservation methods.

"We have to pick up our trash because if we don't, it will go to our beach and it will affect all the animals in there," said Guerrero, 12.

The students eagerly signed the banner, posted by the exit side of the expo, and wrote different wishes, messages, including things they liked best at the expo.

Pionnah Gregorio, a fifth grader at Green Meadows School, said that people should plant trees because "one tree can give air to 10 people."

Nine-year-old Natalie Hirshbein, also from Green Meadows, said she learned that people should "stop smoking" because it's bad for the health and to plant more trees "because they give oxygen, food, paper, pencils, tables, and others."

Robin Agbayani, 9, said his favorite part of the expo was seeing the brown tree snake. "It's my first time to see one and I didn't get scared," said the fourth grader.

Jan Rae Salazar, fifth grader at WSR, said he learned that it's not good to catch fish smaller than the allowed size "because if it's smaller, it means they haven't made baby fish yet."

Albert Bergancia, 11, said recycling by "re-using" what's in the trash such as plastic bottles and cans would help protect the environment too.

Fifth grader Brandon Acosta, for his part, learned that killing protected animals is "bad" because "they're almost extinct that if they don't stop, they'll soon be gone."

Wednesday's visitors included students from Saipan Community School, Whispering Palms, Brilliant Star, Grace Christian Academy, and Oleai Elementary School, who all got the chance to learn about different topics like erosion and sedimentation, healthy hearing and proper nutrition, dental health, public safety, highway safety, coral reefs, and solar energy.

The students were assisted by their teachers and some 39 volunteers from Kagman and Saipan Southern high schools, Marianas Baptist Academy, and Grace Christian Academy.

The expo is hosted by the Division of Environmental Quality in celebration of the Environmental Awareness Month this April.

DEQ's Jihan Buniag, one of the expo's coordinators, said the wish banner was a new component to determine if the students absorbed whatever was presented at the various booths they visited.

Buniag said that seeing the students' messages—ranging from 'use less plastic' to 'don't kill turtles'—"melts my heart."

"It's good to know that these kids have it in their minds that it's important to protect the environment," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Katy Mattos, another event coordinator, said the wish banner demonstrates that the students understood the presentations and instilled in them a "broader picture" of issues that they can share with families and friends.

"It's beyond what they can do; it's how they can help the island as a whole, which is really important," she said.

Since the expo was held at an outdoor venue, the heat caused at least three students to faint or complain of dizziness. With these incidents, Mattos reminded students to stay hydrated, take breaks, and stay in the shade as much as possible. She said DEQ has several drinking water jugs at the site and students can take shelter under the booth tents.

The three-day expo ended yesterday with a tree planting and a recyclable fashion show.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Nine-year-old Natalie Hirshbein, a fourth grader at Green Meadows School, writes what she liked best about the 2012 Environmental Expo and her wish for the environment on Wednesday.

2012 NMC Charter Day auditions begin April 24

The Northern Marianas College will be holding auditions for the college's Charter Day competitions: Marianas Idol, Battle of the Bands, the NMC Glee competition, and the Clash of the Crews dance competition.

All auditions are being held in the NMC Student Center in Building J at the college's As Terlaje campus. The auditions are scheduled on the following dates:

■ April 24, Tuesday: Marianas Idol Auditions, 4pm

■ April 25, Wednesday: Battle of the Bands Auditions, 4pm

■ April 26, Thursday: NMC Glee Auditions, 4pm

■ April 30, Monday, Clash of the Crews Auditions, 5pm

For the Battle of the Bands and NMC Glee auditions, groups are required to bring their own equipment.

Those interested in competing can pick up an application form from the NMC Student Center in Building J, or can download application forms at www.nmcnet.edu. There is no application fee for any of the competitions.

This year, Charter Day will take place on May 4, 2012, from 4pm to 10pm at NMC As Terlaje campus.

For more information, contact L.J. Castro at 234-5498 Ext. 1251/1253 or email luisjohnc@nmcnet.edu. Additional information about NMC Charter Day is also available online at www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Early Signs of Autism
Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Red flags to watch for from birth to age 3

Social

Children with autism may:

- Not share warm, joyful facial expressions, such as smiles by 6 months
- Not babble and coo by 12 months
- Not respond to their name by 12 months
- Use few or no gestures (e.g., does not wave goodbye, point, etc.) by 12 months
- Not play "pretend" games (pretend to "feed" a doll) by 18 months
- Avoid eye contact
- Avoid other people and prefer to play alone
- Prefer not to be held or cuddled
- Have delayed speech and language skills.

Behavioral

Children with autism may:

- Be very organized (e.g., line up toys or other objects)
- Get upset by minor changes
- Have odd movement patterns (e.g., flaps hands, rocks body, or spins self in circles)
- Have frequent temper tantrums
- Be overly active
- Purposely hurt themselves
- Repeat words or actions over and over
- Look at objects from unusual angles.

Other areas

Children with autism often:

- Are overly sensitive to touch, sounds, taste or smells
- Lack fear in dangerous situations
- Have an intense need for routines
- Have learning difficulties
- Lose skills they once had (for instance, stop saying words they were using).

If you have concerns about your child's development, contact your baby's doctor or call the Children's Developmental Assistance Center at **664-4830** for a free developmental screening.

Children with autism can learn, grow and succeed.

Early action is the key!

Big Steps for Little Feet
Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. • Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands • Established October 2011
CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Business

Food stamps, federal pensions face GOP cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House weighed in sharply Wednesday against a House GOP move to break last summer's budget pact by cutting the annual budgets for nondefense programs funded through annual appropriations bills.

Republicans are cutting such programs $28 billion below levels agreed to last summer in the bipartisan budget and debt deal, prompting acting White House budget chief Jeffrey Zients to warn lawmakers in a letter that President Barack Obama will not sign any appropriations bills until GOP leaders promise to abide by last summer's budget pact.

The budget deal last summer set caps for the annual spending bills but House Republicans rewrote them when passing a new budget last month. That set the stage for the annual appropriations process to get under way this week, but a situation is emerging in which House bills funding Obama priorities like education and transportation are likely to bear a disproportionate share of the new cuts.

Few if any of the 12 annual appropriations bills are likely to get to Obama's desk before Election Day, but Congress will have to pass stopgap funding to avert a government shutdown when the new budget year begins Oct. 1.

AP

In this Feb. 16, 2012, file photo House Budget Committee Chairman Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., holds up a copy of President Barack Obama's fiscal 2013 federal budget during the budget committee's hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

The battle over the annual spending bills comes as House Republicans are moving on a separate track to target food stamps, federal employee pensions, tax breaks for illegal immigrants and subsidies under Obama's health care law in a multifaceted drive to swap cuts to domestic programs for big Pentagon cuts scheduled next year.

Those cuts are mostly familiar, though a plan to cut food stamps goes well beyond a bipartisan proposal drafted last year. The Democratic-controlled Senate has no plans for companion legislation.

A measure approved Wednesday by the Agriculture panel would reduce the food stamp monthly benefit for a family of four by almost $60, repealing increases that were enacted three years ago as part of Obama's economic stimulus. The changes would also force up to 3 million people out of the program by tightening eligibility rules, the administration estimates.

The food stamp cuts would total $8 billion over the coming year and $34 billion over a decade. The program has been expanded greatly over the past few years—enrollment tops 46 million nationwide, up from about 33 million in 2009—and now costs about $80 billion a year. The average monthly benefit for a family of four is about $500, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal research and advocacy group.

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2-BEDROOM : REG PRICE - ~~$800.00~~ NOW $650.00 ~
(Power and Water EXCLUDED)

LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, where 747 Dining & Bar is situated

AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Back-up generator
- Common waste container
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Free moving-service
- Laundry facility
- On-duty security guard at night
- On-site maintenance
- Parking space
- Swimming pool

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

STUDIO-TYPE : REG PRICE - ~~$380.00~~ NOW $250.00 ~
2-BEDROOM : REG PRICE - ~~$550.00~~ NOW $400.00 ~
(Power and Water EXCLUDED)

LOCATION: SAN JOSE, right next to Roshi's Store (along Beach Rd)

AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Back-up generator
- Common waste container
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Free moving-service
- Laundry facility
- On-site maintenance
- Broad parking space (front area and backside)
- Spacious yard
- Swimming pool w/ BBQ area

ANAKS OCEAN VIEW HILL SAIPAN

AVAILABLE UNITS: 2-Bedroom and 3-Bedroom
PRICE depends upon the type of unit
(Power and Water EXCLUDED)

LOCATION: PUERTO RICO, close to Bank of Hawaii

AMENITIES:
- 24-hr drinkable (Reverse Osmosis) water supply
- Back-up generator
- Common waste container
- Furnished unit
- Free moving-service
- Parking space
- Swimming pool
- Tennis court
- Washer and Dryer in the unit

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COMMERCIAL SPACE:
REG PRICE - ~~$800.00~~ NOW $500.00 ~
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LOCATION: GARAPAN Middle Road, where Pacific Quick Print is situated
AREA: 760 sq ft per unit (2nd FLOOR ONLY)

AMENITIES:
- Parking space
- Common waste container

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM

ANAKS OCEAN VIEW HILL SAIPAN

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

YOUNGS BUILDING

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

1-BEDROOM : REG PRICE - ~~$500.00~~ NOW $400.00 ~
(Power and Water EXCLUDED)

LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, nearby 747 Dining & Bar

AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Back-up generator
- Common waste container
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Free moving-service
- Laundry facility
- On-site maintenance
- Parking space

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Parts shortage could slow down US auto production

DETROIT (AP)—The U.S. auto industry, already stretching to meet rising demand for cars and trucks, is facing shortages of parts and materials that could limit the number of new vehicles in showrooms later this year and crimp a historic turnaround.

The most immediate problem—a shortage of a crucial plastic resin, caused by an explosion March 31 at a plant in Germany—could surface in a few weeks. And later this year or beyond, automakers could be confronted with an even bigger crisis, running short of parts simply because there aren't enough factories and people to make them.

No one is entirely sure how many plants or models will be affected by either problem. Automakers say they are working to avoid shortages in both cases. But it may be tough to manage the intricate chain of companies that make most of the 3,000 parts that go into every car, from tiny valves and computer chips to heavy metal castings for transmissions.

"A lot of them are under pressure because they reduced their staff and temporarily mothballed some of their factories," said Jim Gillette, an analyst with IHS Automotive. "A number of them are struggling to keep up at the moment."

The broader parts shortage dates to the auto industry's near-collapse in 2008 and 2009, when sales plummeted and General Motors and Chrysler were forced into bankruptcy protection. From 2008 to 2011, parts makers cut back on people, closed factories and sold off equipment.

During the downturn, at least 57 parts makers closed, were bought out or went into bankruptcy, according to the Original Equipment Suppliers Association. Nearly 20 percent of auto parts workers—more than 100,000 people—lost their jobs from 2008 through 2011.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan trade deficit a record as fuel imports rise

TOKYO (AP)—Disaster-battered Japan reported its biggest annual trade deficit ever Thursday, a contrast from decades of surpluses, as a nuclear crisis boosted expensive oil and gas imports. The Finance Ministry's preliminary trade data showed a 4.41 trillion yen ($54 billion) trade deficit for the fiscal year that ended March 31. All but one of Japan's 54 nuclear power reactors are offline in the aftermath of a nuclear crisis set off in March 2011 by the tsunami in northeastern Japan. That has forced Japan to rely on oil and gas-fired generation to supply electricity.

American plans to cut another 1,200 jobs

DALLAS (AP)—American Airlines wants to eliminate 1,200 non-union jobs as it cuts costs while under bankruptcy protection. That pushes the company's overall job-cut target to 14,200. It announced plans in February to cut 13,000 union pilots, flight attendants and ground workers. American, the nation's third-biggest airline, has about 73,000 workers. American outlined the cuts for many non-union workers on Wednesday. The company wants to outsource the jobs of all airport skycaps and cargo agents, cancel a planned lump-sum payment that was due for nonunion workers next year, freeze their pension plan, cut vacation and paid holidays, and reduce medical benefits.

Nation

New military photo scandal: Panetta apologizes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Leon Panetta apologized Wednesday for gruesome, newly revealed photographs that show U.S. soldiers posing with the bloodied remains of dead insurgents in Afghanistan. He said war can lead young troops to "foolish decisions" and expressed concern the photos could incite fresh violence against Americans.

The White House called the two-year-old photos "reprehensible," joining Panetta and other top military officials in expressing regret for the latest in a string of embarrassing missteps by the U.S. military in a war that's built on earning the trust and confidence of ordinary Afghans. In recent months, American troops have been caught up in controversies over burning Muslim holy books, urinating on Afghan corpses, an alleged massacre of 17 Afghan villagers and other misdeeds.

Los Angeles Times
U.S. troops posed with body parts of Afghan bombers
LAUSD WEIGHS LOWER BAR FOR GRADS
Corruption can leave cities with enormous legal bills

The front page of the Los Angeles Times newspaper is shown at the Hollywood Universal News stand in Los Angeles on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. AP

"This is war. I know that war is ugly and it's violent, and I know that young people sometimes caught up in the moment make some very foolish decisions," Panetta said. "I am not excusing that behavior, but neither do I want these images to bring further injury to our people or to our relationship with the Afghan people."

"My apology is on behalf of the Department of Defense and the U.S. government," Panetta told a news conference in Brussels following a meeting of NATO allies at which the way ahead in Afghanistan was the central topic.

The photos were published in Wednesday's Los Angeles Times. One shows members of the 82nd Airborne Division posing in 2010 with Afghan police holding the severed legs of a suicide bomber. The same platoon a few months later was sent to investigate the remains of three insurgents reported to have accidentally blown themselves up—and soldiers again posed and mugged for a photo with the remains, the newspaper said.

A photo from the second incident appears to show the hand of a dead insurgent resting on a U.S. soldier's shoulder as the soldier smiles.

Panetta said he had urged the newspaper not to publish the photos, which it said it were given by a member of the 82nd Airborne.

Scorching talk: Romney and Obama battle over economy

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Their battle joined, challenger Mitt Romney savaged President Barack Obama's handling of the economy on Wednesday while the commander in chief commiserated up close with victims of the recession and warned that Republicans would only make matters worse.

"Obama is over his head and swimming in the wrong direction" when it comes to the economy, Romney said in a scorching speech delivered across the street from the football stadium where the president will deliver his Democratic National Convention acceptance speech this summer.

"Even if you like Barack Obama, we can't afford Barack Obama," the former Massachusetts governor declared, an evident reference to the president's ability to transcend at least some of the public's dissatisfaction with the pace of the recovery. Romney quoted liberally—and mockingly—from Obama's 2008 campaign pledges to repair the economy.

At the same time, Obama sketched his case for reelection in swing-state Ohio, where he met with unemployed workers who have enrolled in job training programs. Then he spoke at the Lorain County Community College.

"Right now, companies can't find enough qualified workers for the jobs they need to fill" locally, he said. "So programs like this one are training hundreds of thousands of workers with the skills that companies are looking for. And it's working." By contrast, he said, between the years 2000 and 2008, Republican policies produced "the slowest job growth in half a century ... and we've spent the last three and a half years cleaning up after that mess."

Campaign symbolism counted for much on a day that seems destined to be replicated often in the six months until Election Day.

Nurse accused in baby abduction had miscarried

SPRING, Texas (AP)—Verna McClain told her fiance she had given birth to their child. But after she suffered a miscarriage, authorities said, she went looking for another baby to present to him.

Now she's accused of killing a young mother to take one by force.

McClain

Investigators say McClain waited outside a pediatrician's office north of Houston and shot Kala Golden before taking her tiny newborn son, who was only 3 days old.

Little Keegan Golden was found unharmed hours later with McClain's sister—who was told that her sister planned to adopt the boy. He is back with family members.

McClain is charged with capital murder and was being held Wednesday without bond. Authorities say she admitted attacking the woman Tuesday and stealing her baby from his mother's pickup truck.

McClain, 30, who listed a Houston address, was separated from her husband, with whom she had raised three children.

"I don't understand that, her taking a child," her estranged husband, Theo McClain of San Diego, told The Associated Press. "That doesn't make sense. We have three kids. And then to shoot somebody? I've never known her to hurt anybody."

McClain had told her fiance she had given birth to their child. Instead, McClain had miscarried, said Capt. Bruce Zenor of the Montgomery County sheriff's office.

Her fiancé, who was not identified Wednesday, is being interviewed by authorities.

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How is your baby growing?

If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:

Developmental Health Watch 4 to 7 Months

- Seems very stiff, with tight muscles
- Head still flops back when body is pulled to a sitting position
- Does not like to cuddle
- Shows no affection for the person who cares for him or her
- Doesn't seem to enjoy being around people
- Persistent tearing, eye drainage, or sensitivity to light
- Does not respond to sounds around him or her
- Has difficulty getting objects to mouth
- Does not roll over in either direction (front to back of back to front) by 5 months
- Seems impossible to comfort at night after 5 months
- Cannot sit with help by 6 months
- Does not laugh or make squealing sounds by 6 months
- Does not actively reach for objects by 6 to 7 months
- Does not follow objects with both eyes at near (1 foot) and far (6 feet) ranges by 7 months
- Does not bear weight on legs by 7 months
- Does not try to attract attention through actions by 7 months
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the **Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC)** at **664-4830** for a **FREE** developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Big Steps for Little Feet

Asia

India tests nuke-capable missile able to hit China

NEW DELHI (AP)—India announced Thursday that it had successfully test launched a new nuclear-capable missile that would give it, for the first time, the capability of striking the major Chinese cities of Beijing and Shanghai.

The government has hailed the Agni-V missile, with a range of 5,000 kilometers (3,100 miles), as a major boost to its efforts to counter China's regional dominance and become an Asian power in its own right.

The head of India's Defense Research and Development Organization, Vijay Saraswat, said the missile was launched at 8:07 a.m. from Wheeler Island off India's east coast.

It rose to an altitude of more than 600 kilometers (370 miles), its three stages worked properly and its payload was deployed as planned, he told Times Now news channel.

"India has emerged from this launch as a major missile power," he said.

The window for the launch opened Wednesday night, but the test had to be postponed because of weather conditions.

Avinash Chandra, mission director for the test, said that when the launch took place Thursday morning the missile performed as planned.

"We have achieved exactly what we wanted to achieve in this mission," he told Times Now.

The Agni-V is a solid-fuel, three-stage missile designed to carry a 1.5-ton nuclear warhead. It stands 17.5 meters (57 feet) tall, has a launch weight of 50 tons and was built at a reported cost of 25 billion rupees ($486 million). It can be moved across the country by road or rail and can be used to carry multiple warheads or to launch satellites into orbit.

The missile will need four or five more trials before it can be inducted into India's arsenal at some point in 2014 or 2015, Indian officials said.

China is far ahead of India in the missile race, with intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching anywhere in India. Currently, the longest-range Indian missile, the Agni-III, has a range of only 3,500 kilometers (2,100 miles) and falls short of many major Chinese cities.

India hailed Thursday's test as a major step in its fight to be seen as a world power.

"India has today become a nation with the capability to develop, produce, build long-range ballistic missiles and today we are among the six countries who have this capability," Saraswat said.

AP

In this photo released by Indian Ministry of Defense, India's Agni-V missile, with a range of 5,000 kilometers (3,100 miles), lifts off from the launch pad at Wheeler Island off India's east coast, Thursday, April 19, 2012.

China rejects Manila claims over South China shoal

BEIJING (AP)—China said Wednesday that the Philippines is violating maritime law by claiming a shoal in the South China Sea and dismissed Manila's request to take the dispute to an international court.

"We believe it runs counter to historical facts and violates the law," said Liu Weimin, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry.

Philippine navy and Chinese maritime patrol vessels engaged in a standoff last week over a fishing incident near the Scarborough shoal in the South China Sea, an area both sides claim as sovereign territory.

Liu said China had "lodged solemn representations" with the Philippines and that Fu Ying, a vice foreign minister, had called in the Philippine envoy on Wednesday over the issue.

The Philippines plans to seek resolution in an international court, arguing that the shoal is well within the country's 370-kilometer (230-mile) exclusive economic zone that is recognized under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Liu said the Philippines is violating international law by using the U.N. convention to call into question sovereignty over the territory, known as Huangyan island in Chinese.

"China has sufficient legal evidence for its jurisdiction over the Huangyan island. China was the earliest to discover and name the island, and has included it on maps and exercised its sovereignty over it ever since," Liu said.

Liu said that the Philippines never objected to China's territorial control of the shoal before 1997 and that its claim now is "completely baseless."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suu Kyi to leave Myanmar for 1st time in 24 years

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi plans to travel to Britain and Norway in June on her first trip abroad in 24 years, her party spokesman said Wednesday. The 66-year-old democracy icon has not left Myanmar for more than two decades because of fears the nation's authoritarian rulers would not allow her to return. The junta that ruled the country for almost half a century ceded power to a new government last year that has embarked on a series of widely praised reforms, including opening a dialogue with Suu Kyi and allowing her to run for—and win—a seat in parliament.

China slams US ambassador's statement on activist

BEIJING (AP)—China says U.S. Ambassador Gary Locke acted inappropriately when he urged Beijing to free a Chinese activist recently sentenced to jail. The official Xinhua News Agency quoted Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin as saying Thursday that China is "absolutely opposed to interference in its internal affairs and judicial sovereignty by any foreign countries." The activist, Ni Yulan, has fought for the rights of people forcibly evicted from their homes. She was sentenced by a Beijing court last week to two years and eight months in jail for unruly behavior and fraud. Her husband was ordered jailed for two years.

Bin Laden family deportation hits more snags

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The plan to deport Osama bin Laden's three widows and their nine children from Pakistan ran into more bureaucratic hurdles on Wednesday, making it uncertain when they would leave, their lawyer said. The family was detained by Pakistani authorities last May after U.S. Navy SEALs raided the compound in northwest Pakistan where the al-Qaida chief was hiding and killed him. The American commandos left bin Laden's relatives but took his body, which they later buried at sea. Pakistan interrogated the family members and eventually charged the widows and two adult daughters last month with illegally entering and living in the country. The five women were convicted at the beginning of April and sentenced to 45 days in prison, with credit for about a month served.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Division of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 501304 CK, Saipan, MP 96950-1304
Tel: (670) 664-8500/1 • Fax: (670) 664-8540
Email: environment@deq.gov.mp Website: www.deq.gov.mp

Addendum to RFP12-DEQ-045

Attention all potential bidders for RFP12-DEQ-045 "Development of a Surface Water Quality Assurance Monitoring Plan for Saipan, CNMI": Due to a high volume of questions concerning specifications within this RFP, DEQ will be hosting a pre-proposal meeting for all potential bidders to attend if interested. The meeting will be on Monday, April 23, 2012 at 2pm in the 2nd floor conference room of the DEQ headquarters in Gualo Rai, Saipan. This will be the only opportunity for bidders to have questions answered before the April 25th proposal deadline.

Contact: Kaitlin Mattos (kaitlinmattos@deq.gov.mp) 670-664-8510

BANK OF SAIPAN
Marianas Pride

Statement of Financial Condition
(at the close of business December 31, 2011)
(in thousands of dollars)

ASSETS	2011
Cash and due from banks	$ 4,610
Interest bearing deposits in other banks	$ 1,069
Investment securities	$ 1,162
Loans (net)	$ 8,749
Accrued interest receivable	$ 65
Other assets	$ 750
Premises and equipment (net)	$ 355
Foreclosed real estate (net)	$ 112
Total Assets	$ 16,872
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	
Deposits:	
Non-interest bearing	$ 4,073
Interest bearing	$ 7,708
Total deposits	$ 11,781
Accrued interest payable	$ 42
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	$ 220
Total Liabilities	$ 12,043
Shareholders Equity:	
Common Stock	$ 2,508
Additional paid in capital	$ 6,075
Accumulated deficit	$ (1,198)
Treasury stock	$ (2,556)
Total Stockholders' Equity	$ 4,829
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	$ 16,872

audited financial statements are available for review at the Office of Director of Banking

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-015

CALL CENTER SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Call Center Services for CUC Departments and Operating Centers located on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **April 19, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-015, Call Center Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **April 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org; Janina Muna, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P. O. Box 504340
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070
e-mail "joshuaberger711@hotmail.com"

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

ISLA FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., Plaintiff, vs. **DARCY BILL S. MARATITA and MELDA M.C. MARATITA,** Defendants. — **CIVIL CASE NO. 07-0324 A** — **SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint in this matter, a copy of which may be obtained at the law office below or the Superior Court, within **twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication** of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor , D' Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Sususpe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

DATED March 30, 2012

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

KING LAW OFFICE
Janet H. King
P.O. Box 520030 Tinian MP 96952
Ph: (670) 433 0419 235 8060
Fx: (670) 235 8070
Counsel for Plaintiff

LAW OFFICES OF LOREN A. SUTTON
D'Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan
P.O. BOX 5593
SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (670) 989 0627
FAX: (670) 235-8070
Co-Counsel for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FRANCISCO Q. GUERRERO Plaintiff vs. **KIM, CHANG OK** Defendant — **CASE NO. 12-0046** — **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO DEFENDANT: KIM, CHANG OK

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and notified to file an answer, you make to the Amended Complaint. A copy of the Amended Complaint will be published in the Saipan Tribune Newpaper, and posted on the Superior Court Bulletin Board in Susupe, Saipan. You must file your Answer within twenty one days after publication of this Summons for four consecutive weeks, and deliver a copy of your answer to Loren A. Sutton, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. BOX 5593, SAIPAN MP 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your answer and sending it to this Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed by you or for you, by your counsel, and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 22d day of March 2012.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

World

UN chief says progress possible in Syria

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said late Wednesday he isn't underestimating the gravity of the situation in Syria but believes there is an opportunity for progress and recommended the Security Council approve a 300-strong U.N. observer mission.

Ban said in a letter to the council obtained by The Associated Press that he will consider developments on the ground, including consolidation of the cease-fire, before deciding on when to deploy the expanded mission, which is larger than the 250 observers initially envisioned.

Syria accepted a six-point plan by Kofi Annan, the joint U.N.-Arab League envoy, to end more than a year of bloodshed and launch political talks to end the conflict. But Ban said President Bashar Assad's government has only partially implemented its commitments.

The U.N. chief said the level of violence dropped markedly on April 12, the day the cease-fire called for by international envoy Kofi Annan went into effect, but that violent incidents and reported casualties have escalated again in recent days and "the cessation of armed violence in all its forms is therefore clearly incomplete."

At the same time, Ban said, the Syrian government and opposition have continued to express their commitment to a cease-fire and have agreed to cooperate with a U.N. observer mission.

"I remain deeply concerned about the gravity of the situation in the country," he said. "However, without underestimating the serious challenges ahead, an opportunity for progress may now exist, on which we need to build."

The Security Council authorized an advance team of 30 observers for Syria last Saturday and a small group are already at work.

The secretary-general called on the council to approve an expanded United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria, to be known as UNSMIS, comprising an initial deployment of up to 300 military observers in approximately 10 locations throughout the country, for an initial period of three months.

It would be backed up by support personnel included advisors with political, human rights, civil affairs, public information, public security, gender and other expertise, he said.

Norway gunman wants freedom or death for massacre

OSLO, Norway (AP)—The right-wing fanatic on trial for massacring 77 people in Norway says he wants either freedom or death, calling the country's prison terms "pathetic" and arguing for the return of capital punishment, which was last used here to execute Nazi collaborators after World War II.

In the third day of his terror trial, Anders Behring Breivik was grilled by prosecutors about the anti-Muslim militant group he claims to belong to.

He rejected their suggestions that the "Knights Templar" doesn't exist, but admitted he had embellished when describing the network in a 1,500-page manifesto he published online before the bomb-and-shooting rampage on July 22.

"In principle it is not an organization in a conventional sense," he said, describing it as a leaderless network consisting of "independent cells."

Prosecutors told reporters after Wednesday's hearing that they don't believe the group is real or that the meetings Breivik claims took place in Liberia, Britain and the Baltic countries ever happened.

The issue is of key importance in determining Breivik's sanity, and whether he's ultimately sent to prison or compulsory psychiatric care for carrying out Norway's worst peacetime massacre.

If found sane, Breivik could face a maximum 21-year prison sentence or an alternate custody arrangement that would keep him locked up as long as he is considered a menace to society. If declared insane he would be committed to psychiatric care for as long as he's considered ill.

"Acquittal or the death penalty are the only logical outcomes of this case," the confessed killer said. "I view 21 years in prison as a pathetic sentence."

According to Amnesty International, Belarus is the only country in Europe that still applies the death penalty; two young men were executed there last month. Russia announced a moratorium on capital punishment when it joined the Council of Europe in 1996 and pledged to abolish it, but has not done so.

Norway abolished capital punishment in peacetime in 1905 but retained it for war crimes until 1979. After World War II, Norway executed 24 Norwegians, 13 Germans and one Dane. The last execution was in 1948.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

April 2012 Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month!

"A time to recognize that we each play a part in promoting the Social & emotional well-being of children and families in communities"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
15	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
CAN-Volleyball Tournament (TBA)		CAN-Volleyball Presentation Common Sense Parenting (CSP) Class – Session #3 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m. Garapan Center	CAN- School Presentation	Street Market (IB) T-Shirt design contest ends Parent Anonymous (PA) 6:30p.m. – 8:30p.m.	Flame Tree Arts Festival-Begins PA (Tinian) 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.	Flame Tree Arts Festival-Begins SAAM Jamboree CSP Class – Session #4 5:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. Garapan Center
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
Flame Tree Arts Festival-Ends		CSP Class-Session# 5 6:00-8:00p.m. Garapan Center		Cycle # 4 CSP Class session# 1 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m. Court house, Adult Probation PA 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.	PA (Tinian) 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m.	CSP Class-Session# 6 6:00p.m. -8:00p.m. Garapan Center Last day, Graduation! Week of The Young Child At WSR Elementary School

Be A Hero Help Prevent Child Abuse

MYTHS ABOUT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

It is a myth that most children are sexually assaulted by a stranger.

In fact, it is estimated that 80-85% of all children sexually assaulted are perpetrated by an adult known and trusted by the child. Only a small percentage of perpetrators fit the stereotypes of the stranger.

It is a myth that sexual assault only happens to girls.

In fact, we may not yet know the full extent of sexual assault against boys because of their tendency to not report. Research estimates that 1 out of 3-4 girls and 1 out of 4-6 boys will be sexually assaulted before their 18th birthday.

It is a myth that most children who are abused do something to cause the abuse to occur.

In fact, the child is always the victim. The responsibility for the abuse lies solely with the adult. In the case of child sexual abuse, many offenders try to shift the blame for their action by accusing the child of being seductive or promiscuous.

CALL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT:

664-2563/2565 ON SAIPAN
532-9393 ON ROTA
433-2950 ON TINIAN

Off The Wall

World's No. 2 tower in Japan shows off views

TOKYO (AP)—A Tokyo developer took visitors up the world's tallest freestanding broadcast structure on Tuesday, a 634-meter (2,080-foot) tower with special technology meant to withstand earthquakes that often strike Japan.

The Tokyo Skytree is the world's second-tallest structure behind the 828-meter (2,717-foot) Burj Khalifa in Dubai, according to owner Tobu Tower Skytree Co.

The needle-like radio and television tower opens to the public on May 22.

Journalists given a tour Tuesday saw sweeping if hazy views of the Tokyo skyline.

It took about 50 seconds in a high-speed elevator Tuesday to zip up to the lower observation deck at 350 meters (1,148 feet), and another 30 seconds to reach the higher deck at 450 meters (1,476 feet).

The Skytree has a restaurant and two cafes on the observation decks, a vertigo-inducing glass floor that allows visitors to look straight down, and an emergency staircase with 2,523 steps.

The tower was constructed with extremely strong steel tubes surrounding a central concrete column that are structurally separate from each other in the tower's mid-section. In the event of an earthquake, the concrete core and steel frame are designed to offset each other to reduce the building's overall motion.

The Skytree has been built to stand firm even if a magnitude 7 quake were to strike beneath the building, said Sho Toyoshima, a spokesman for Tobu Tower. He said the tower sustained no structural damage from the magnitude 9.0 quake that struck off Japan's northeastern coast last March, even as it was being built.

The Skytree is expected to bolster television and radio transmissions in the capital region. Owners hope it will also become a new tourist destination in Tokyo.

Calif. scientist uses physics to dodge ticket

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A University of California San Diego scientist was able to use his math and physics knowledge to argue his way out of a $400 traffic ticket.

In a paper titled "The Proof of Innocence," senior research scientist Dmitri Krioukov successfully appealed his failure-to-stop ticket by explaining that he may have appeared to an officer that he didn't stop when he actually did, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

"All you need to know is classical mechanics and a little bit of geometry," Krioukov told the *Times*.

The calculations were very simple and took five to ten minutes, and writing the four-page paper took a few hours, Krioukov said.

The time spent on the paper was a minor inconvenience considering the cost of a lawyer and the ticket, he said.

According to Krioukov's calculations, a car moving at a constant speed can appear to move in the same way as a car that is moving quickly and briefly stops before accelerating again.

Krioukov also told the judge that a campus building obstructed the officer's view of the incident.

The scientist posted his paper online for any other motorists who may be accused of running a stop sign.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09),** will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of two (2) groups: Project 1 is existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications, and Project 2 is a Design-Build of Restroom I in accordance with the Design/Build Concept Plans and Specifications. Bidders are reminded that the Construction Management (CM) team is not available for design services for Project 2.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, ~~**10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012**~~, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: April 10, 2012

Luggage tags ID suspect in Ohio puppy abandonment

AP

This Tuesday, April 10, 2012, photo shows a litter of six puppies, and their mother, an English bulldog mix, at the Toledo Area Humane Society in Maumee, Ohio.

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio man accused of zipping six bulldog-mix puppies into a suitcase and leaving it next to a trash bin might have gotten away with it if he had remembered to remove the luggage tag bearing his contact information, authorities said Wednesday.

A Toledo Area Humane Society officer filed two misdemeanor charges of abandoning animals against Howard Davis, 53, of Toledo, this week, according to court records. Davis was not arrested, and he could not be found for comment Wednesday.

"It's unfortunate he chose to abandon the dogs," said John Dinon, the Humane Society's executive director. "If he had just called us and said he couldn't care for them, we would have taken them and he wouldn't have been charged with a crime."

Passers-by found the suitcase containing the three female and three male puppies outside a business on April 4, authorities said. The pups were about 4 weeks old.

The mother matches the description of a dog licensed to Davis and was identified as his dog by people who also said he had been trying to sell the puppies, Dinon said.

Davis told a Humane Society officer that he had given the dogs to someone in Michigan and had not abandoned them, Dinon said.

The puppies were in good shape so must have been found shortly after they were left, Dinon said. The mother was a bit thin, he said—not unusual for a dog nursing puppies.

The dogs will be sent to a foster home until they are ready for adoption.

SD man's lawsuit says circumcision 'robbed' him

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—A South Dakota prison inmate is suing the hospital where he was circumcised as a newborn, saying he only recently became aware that he'd undergone the procedure and that it robbed him of his sexual prowess.

Dean Cochrun, 28, is asking for $1,000 in compensatory and punitive damages. He also asks in the lawsuit that his foreskin be restored "in the hopes I could feel whole again," though he acknowledged that he didn't expect such a restoration to be anything more than aesthetic.

Cochrun, who is imprisoned in Sioux Falls on a kidnapping conviction, filed the federal lawsuit Friday against Sanford Hospital. Cochrun claims that an "unknown doctor" at the then-named Sioux Valley Hospital misled his mother to believe that the procedure was medically necessary. Cochrun argues that the procedure was unnecessary, unethical and without medical benefit.

"I was recently made aware of the fact that I had been (circumcised) and that ... I was robbed of sensitivity during sexual intercourse as well as the sense of security and well-being I am entitled to in my person," he argued in the lawsuit, adding that neither he nor his partners would "have that sensitivity during sexual intercourse and have a normal sex life."

Cochrun isn't represented by a lawyer in the lawsuit, which includes a letter from Sanford officials responding to a letter requesting that his foreskin be replaced. Patient relations representative DyAnn Smith replied that Sanford would not pay for the procedure.

"There will be no further correspondence about this matter," she wrote.

Science & Technology

Where's a Yellowstone bear? Look on your phone

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—For wildlife enthusiasts hoping to catch a glimpse of wolves, grizzly bears and bison at Yellowstone National Park, the best place to be on the lookout may soon be a cellphone.

New smartphone apps enable people to pinpoint where they've recently seen critters in Yellowstone. People who drive to those locations can—at least in theory—improve their odds of seeing wildlife compared to the typical tourist's dumb luck.

One app called Where's a Bear promises "up to the second" animal sightings in Yellowstone. Recently a website called Yellowstone Wildlife began offering a similar app.

Websites long have kept track of animal sightings in Yellowstone. Already this spring the Yellowstone Wildlife site shows signs of life: Mule deer near park headquarters at Mammoth, bison in the area of a landmark petrified tree.

A message on the site warns of grizzlies feeding on a bison carcass near the Yellowstone River Trail. The statement relayed from the National Park Service could save a life. Grizzly attacks killed two tourists in Yellowstone last summer.

But not everybody thinks that making a lot of wildlife sighting information readily retrievable by phone is a hot idea. As it is, the crowds that stop to gawk at roadside wildlife in Yellowstone can grow to hundreds of people, pointed out Vicky Kraft, of Pine Mountain, Calif., who maintains a Facebook group about Yellowstone.

Grizzlies are especially challenging for park rangers who have to both direct traffic and keep people a safe distance away.

"It's crazy. There's no parking. People sideswipe each other because they're looking at the bear," Kraft said Monday.

AP

This June 2011 file photo shows Grizzly bear No. 399 crossing a road in Grand Teton National Park, Wyo., with her three cubs.

Wildlife becoming too comfortable around people is another concern. A grizzly habituated to people is even more dangerous than your average bear.

"I think there's a responsibility that a person should have if they really like Yellowstone to say, `Gee, is this going to be bad for the animals? Is it bad for the ranger? Is it bad for the park?' And I think when you look at a situation with that app, the answer would have to be yes," Kraft said.

Attempts to reach the app developers through their websites Monday and Tuesday were unsuccessful.

Yellowstone officials said the apps could become a problem depending on their popularity.

"If it did take off it would be a concern. It's got other applications but at its worst core it would send more people to wildlife jams," Yellowstone spokesman Dan Hottle said.

Though there's no app for Grand Teton National Park, officials there share the concern. Two mother bears and their cubs already draw crowds and stop traffic at the park without any tech help.

"It could add to an already congested situation we're experiencing with roadside bears," Grand Teton spokeswoman Jackie Skaggs said.

One technical problem with the apps is the vast majority of Yellowstone doesn't have cellphone coverage. Also, it's not like anybody is going to persuade a moose, elk, or bald eagle to wait around for the next tourist to show up.

On the other hand, a pack of wolves seen killing a bison might stick around for days while they fed on the meat, suggested Tom Mangelsen, a wildlife photographer who lives in Jackson Hole, just south of Yellowstone.

"I imagine it would be helpful, certainly for tourists or people who aren't familiar with Yellowstone, and I suppose for people like me, too," Mangelsen said.

Mangelsen counts himself among the many photographers and tourists who have been watching a popular grizzly in Grand Teton over the past few years. The grizzly recently emerged from hibernation with her three cubs—big news in Jackson Hole.

Mangelsen said he didn't rush off to share the news online.

"I haven't been on one of those websites more than three times in my life to see what's going on in Yellowstone," he said. "But I know people live by it."

Viddy: A video version of Instagram

By REID KANALEY
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Did Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg get a good deal last week when he bought Instagram for $1 billion—a deal he apparently negotiated on his own, even before telling his board of directors?

Only time will tell if a nifty application that turns crisp digital photos into Instamatic-like snapshots is worth that kind of money, even for the millions of users Instagram already has.

For people like me, Instagram is surprisingly compelling, and I've enjoyed posting photos with it for much of the past year.

The app, on my iPhone, is also a convenient place to track the travels and scenes from the lives of my friends and family who post pictures there. The company recently launched an Android version, too.

And if Instagram works out as one more way to keep people hooked on Facebook, maybe Zuckerberg will find himself on the hunt for a video version of the service—something like Viddy, by Viddy Inc.

Viddy, which has been rocketing in popularity, does with videos what Instagram does with still photos. The free app for Apple devices lets you post short videos to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Tumblr, and you can sign up using a Facebook or Twitter account.

Posting videos as you would any tweet or Facebook entry, you can share the events of your day as they happen. Or you can push snippets of saved videos through the app's effects filters to your friends, followers and, if you choose, the world of other Viddy users.

Videos are limited to 15 seconds in length—the visual analog of a 140-character tweet.

Those effects can, for example, render a sharp digital recording into something that looks for all the world like it came out of a Super 8 movie camera, circa 1974, scratched film and all. If you want it, the app will automatically attach a musical soundtrack to your video.

There are additional effects available for download, including 3-D effects and additional filters for retro film looks, overexposures, fish-eye-lens views and so on.

Many of these are free; others cost 99 cents or more.

Antivirus software won't always coexist

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I'm planning to buy a Windows 7 PC and transfer everything to it from my old Windows XP computer. I read that you recommend the Malwarebytes security program. Will it interfere with my existing Norton security software on the new PC?—Nancy Davis, Atascadero, Calif.

ANSWER: The free version of the Malwarebytes program won't interfere with Norton's antivirus or firewall software. But the enhanced, $25 version of Malwarebytes probably will.

Why? The Norton security programs run constantly, and any other anti-malware program that runs all the time is likely to interfere with Norton.

The free version of Malwarebytes runs only when you start it. After it completes a single scan of your PC, it turns off until the next time you use it. But the for-pay version of Malwarebytes runs continuously.

You can find the free version of Malwarebytes at http://www.tinyurl.com/d5jtuz (click "download now.")

By the way, you can't transfer software from your old PC to your new one. Instead, you have to reinstall it on the new computer.

You can reinstall your Norton software by going to http://www.tinyurl.com/89fu5fz and following the directions. You can reinstall the free version of Malwarebytes by repeating the steps above.

■■■

Q: Scott Garoutte of Edina, Minn.; Lana Luhm of Eau Claire, Wis.; and Randall Sollenberger of Winter Haven, Fla., all asked why a red letter "X" sometimes appears in place of a photograph that was contained in the body of an email.

A: The email "red X" problem has been around for years, and has several possible causes, including software settings, if in Microsoft's Outlook email or its Internet Explorer Web browser; the quirks of different email systems, particularly AOL's; and interference from security software.

To fix software settings, see http://www.tinyurl.com/6r6jcvl or http://www.tinyurl.com/7gnad6f. To avoid the other barriers, send photos as attachments rather than inside the body of the e-mail. Attachments are more uniformly handled by different email systems, and are less likely to trigger your security software.

NOTE: Several readers have complained that the TinyURL Web addresses in this column don't work. They do work, but only if they're typed into the Web address box at the top of a browser. You can't search for them on Google or Bing.

Why? TinyURLs aren't websites; they're nicknames for website addresses that are too long to print. The TinyURL.com site converts these nicknames to their real Web addresses.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Kutcher invests in flat fee tech startup Dwolla

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Actor Ashton Kutcher is among the early investors in Dwolla, an Iowa tech startup that lets users transfer money or pay for things through their smartphones or online for a flat fee of 25 cents per transaction.

The "Two and a Half Men" star didn't disclose the size of the investment his venture capital company made in Dwolla, which is hoping to lure customers seeking an alternative to the percentage-based fees typical of credit card purchases and other online payment methods.

Kutcher told The Des Moines Register on Tuesday that he wants to help build a "killer" company in Iowa "and put a bunch of people to work here."

"I think this company could employ hundreds of people within the next couple of years," he said. "The potential for Dwolla is to be the backbone for the global financial exchange. Because it's built to do that. It's built better than any system that currently exists."

Dwolla said in February that it had raised $5 million from five investment firms, but it kept Kutcher's involvement secret until now.

Kutcher's company, A-Grade Investments, has invested in about 40 tech startups and tech companies, including popular services such as Foursquare, Zaarly and Skype. The Cedar Rapids native, who provided feedback to Dwolla's 20 employees at its downtown headquarters on Monday, said he sees the company having a huge impact.

Dwolla's founder, Ben Milne, said he talks with Kutcher via Skype every month or so. Milne says Kutcher's insights have "shown up in the product already in a million different ways."

Their relationship began when Bo Fishback, CEO of the digital marketplace Zaarly, told Kutcher he should meet Milne. They got together at Thanksgiving last year at Kutcher's brother's house and his father's garage, he said.

The two drew up ideas on whiteboards. Kutcher said he was impressed with Milne's vision.

Kutcher has won a reputation as a savvy tech investor and social media star, and entrepreneurs across the country compete to get time with him.

It's not just because of a fat paycheck. He has launched his own app and a social media production company and he brings a huge audience to any new company he chooses to invest in and talk about. He has more than 10 million followers on his Twitter account and 12.2 million "likes" on Facebook.

Life & Style

Dick Clark, TV and New Year's Eve icon, dies at 82

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dick Clark stood as an avatar of rock 'n' roll virtually from its birth and, until his death Wednesday at age 82, as a cultural touchstone for boomers and their grandkids alike.

His identity as "the world's oldest teenager" became strained in recent years, as time and infirmity caught up with his enduring boyishness. But he owned New Year's Eve after four decades hosting his annual telecast on ABC from Times Square. And as a producer and entertainment entrepreneur, he was a media titan: his Dick Clark Productions supplied movies, game shows, beauty contests and more to TV, and, for a time in the 1980s, he boasted programs on all three networks.

Equally comfortable chatting about music with Sam Cooke or bantering with Ed McMahon on "TV's Bloopers and Practical Jokes," Clark was listed among the Forbes 400 of wealthiest Americans. Clark, who died of a heart attack Wednesday at a Santa Monica hospital, also was part of radio as partner in the United Stations Radio Network, which provided programs—including Clark's—to thousands of stations.

"There's hardly any segment of the population that doesn't see what I do," Clark told The Associated Press in a 1985 interview. "It can be embarrassing. People come up to me and say, 'I love your show,' and I have no idea which one they're talking about."

One of his later TV projects, "American Dreams," served as a fitting weekly tribute to Clark's impact. Airing from 2002 to 2005, this NBC drama centered on a Philadelphia family in the early 1960s and, in particular, on 15-year-old Meg, who, through a quirk of fate, found her way onto the set of Clark's teen dance show, "American Bandstand."

The nostalgic "American Dreams" depicted a musical revolution, which Clark so reassuringly helped usher in against the backdrop of a nation in turmoil. While never a hit, the series was embraced by older viewers as a warm souvenir of the era that spawned Clark, and as an affectionate history lesson for their children and grandchildren.

President Barack Obama noted the nostalgia. "More important than his groundbreaking achievements was the way he made us feel—as young and vibrant and optimistic as he was," Obama said in a statement.

Clark bridged the rebellious new music scene and traditional show business. He defended pop artists and artistic freedom, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame said in an online biography of the 1993 inductee. He helped give black artists their due by playing original R&B recordings instead of cover versions by white performers, and he condemned censorship.

He joined "American Bandstand" in 1956 after Bob Horn, who'd been the host since its 1952 debut, was fired. A year later, Clark integrated the show with black dancers.

"It still wasn't acceptable for them to dance with white kids, so the blacks just danced with each other. We were waiting for the explosion, but it never happened," Clark told Pennsylvania Heritage Magazine in 1998. "The wonderful part about our decision to integrate then was that there were no repercussions, no reverberations, no battles at all—it just happened right there on a television screen in front of millions of people."

Under Clark's guidance, "Bandstand" went from a local Philadelphia show to a national phenomenon, introducing stars from Buddy Holly to Madonna. It was one of network TV's longest-running series as part of ABC's daytime lineup from 1957 to 1987.

"I played records, the kids danced, and America watched," was how Clark once described the series' simplicity. In his 1958 hit "Sweet Little Sixteen," Chuck Berry sang that "they'll be rocking on Bandstand, Philadelphia, P-A."

As a host, Clark had the smooth delivery of a seasoned radio announcer. As a producer, he had an ear for a hit record. He also knew how to make wary adults welcome this odd new breed of music in their homes.

Clark endured accusations that he was in with the squares, with critic Lester Bangs defining Bandstand as "a leggily acceptable euphemism of the teenage experience." In the 1985 interview, Clark acknowledged the complaints. "But I knew at the time that if we didn't make the presentation to the older generation palatable, it could kill it.

"So along with Little Richard and Chuck Berry and the Platters and the Crows and the Jayhawks ... the boys wore coats and ties and the girls combed their hair and they all looked like sweet little kids into a high school dance," he said.

Clark suffered a stroke in 2004 that affected his ability to speak and walk. That year, he missed his annual appearance on "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve."

AP

In this undated file photo released by ABC, Dick Clark hosts the New Year's eve special from New York's Times Square.

He returned the following year and, although his speech at times was difficult to understand, many praised his bravery, including other stroke victims.

"I'm just thankful I'm still able to enjoy this once-a-year treat," he told The Associated Press by email in December 2008 as another New Year's Eve approached.

Ryan Seacrest, who subsequently took over main hosting duties on the countdown show from Clark, said in a statement Wednesday that he was "deeply saddened."

"I idolized him from the start," Seacrest said. "He was a remarkable host and businessman and left a rich legacy to television audiences around the world."

Record executive Clive Davis called Clark "a true pioneer who revolutionized the way we listened to and consumed music. For me he ranks right up there with the giants of our business."

Friends on Wednesday recalled a patient, encouraging man. "He was there for every crisis of my life and there were many," Connie Francis said in statement. "Without Dick Clark there would have been no career because I was ready to abandon it. Dick was the most principled man I ever met in this business and treated everyone the same way, even if you were the little guy."

Said Pat Boone: "Careers grew because of Dick Clark."

Clark was honored at the Emmy Awards in 2006, telling the crowd: "I have accomplished my childhood dream, to be in show business. Everybody should be so lucky to have their dreams come true. I've been truly blessed."

He was born Richard Wagstaff Clark in Mount Vernon, N.Y., in 1929. His father, Richard Augustus Clark, was a sales manager who worked in radio.

Clark idolized his athletic older brother, Bradley, who was killed in World War II. In his 1976 autobiography, "Rock, Roll & Remember," Clark recalled how radio helped ease his loneliness and turned him into a fan of Steve Allen, Arthur Godfrey and other popular hosts.

From Godfrey, he said, he learned that "a radio announcer does not talk to 'those of you out there in radio land'; a radio announcer talks to me as an individual."

Clark began his career in the mailroom of a Utica, N.Y., radio station in 1945. By age 26, he was a broadcasting veteran, with nine years' experience on radio and TV stations in Syracuse and Utica, N.Y., and Philadelphia. He held a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University. While in Philadelphia, Clark befriended McMahon, who later credited Clark for introducing him to his future "Tonight Show" boss, Johnny Carson.

In the 1960s, "American Bandstand" moved from black-and-white to color, from weekday broadcasts to once-a-week Saturday shows, and from Philadelphia to Los Angeles. Although its influence started to ebb, it still featured some of the biggest stars of each decade, whether Janis Joplin, the Jackson 5, Talking Heads or Prince. But Clark never did book two of rock's iconic groups, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Elvis Presley also never performed, although Clark managed an on-air telephone interview while Presley was in the Army.

The show's status as an American cultural institution was solidified when Clark donated Bandstand's original podium and backdrop to the Smithsonian Institution.

When Michael Jackson died in June 2009, Clark recalled working with him since he was a child, adding, "Of all the thousands of entertainers I have worked with, Michael was THE most outstanding. Many have tried and will try to copy him, but his talent will never be matched."

Clark kept more than records spinning with his Dick Clark Productions. Its credits included the Academy of Country Music and Golden Globe awards; TV movies including the Emmy-winning "The Woman Who Willed a Miracle" (1984), the "$25,000 Pyramid" game show and the 1985 film "Remo Williams: The Adventure Begins." Clark himself made a cameo on "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and a dramatic appearance as a witness on the original "Perry Mason."

In 1974, at ABC's request, Clark created the American Music Awards after the network lost the broadcast rights to the Grammy Awards.

He was also an author, with "Dick Clark's American Bandstand" and such self-help books as "Dick Clark's Program for Success in Your Business and Personal Life" and "Looking Great, Staying Young."

His unchanging looks inspired a joke in "Peggy Sue Got Married," the 1986 comedy starring Kathleen Turner as an unhappy wife and mother transported back to 1960. Watching Clark on a black-and-white TV set, she shakes her head in amazement, "Look at that man, he never ages."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1952: Moves to Philadelphia from his native New York, joins radio station WFIL as a disc jockey.

1956: Joins "American Bandstand" as host, replacing original host Bob Horn. Under Clark's guidance, it's transformed from a local Philadelphia show to a national phenomenon.

1957: Forms a production company, later named dick clark productions, the cornerstone of his entrepreneurial success.

1960: Is called to testify during a Congressional investigation of "payola," or bribery in the record and radio industry. Cleared of any suspicions, he's required by ABC to divest himself of record-company interests.

1963: Hosts "The Dick Clark Radio Show," an early attempt at radio syndication that lasted less than a year.

1972: Produces and hosts "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve."

1973: Hosts "The $10,000 Pyramid," which in different versions brought him multiple Emmy Awards for best game show host.

1974: Creates the American Music Awards at the request of ABC, which lost the broadcast rights to the Grammy Awards.

1987: His "American Bandstand," one of network TV's longest-lived series as part of ABC's daytime lineup starting in 1957, ends its network run, moves to syndication.

1989: Produces an "American Bandstand" series for USA Network, with new host David Hirsch, which runs for less than a year.

1993: Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Clark, who condemned censorship and gave black performers their due, is saluted for defending pop artists and artistic freedom.

2001: Co-hosts "The Other Half," a syndicated daytime talk show for male viewers, with Mario Lopez, Danny Bonaduce and Dorian Gregory.

2002: Produces "American Dreams," an NBC drama about a Philadelphia teenager who's a regular on "American Bandstand."

2004: Suffers a December stroke, is forced to miss his annual appearance on "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve." He returns the next year, despite impaired speech, and is praised by stroke victims and others for his bravery.

2006: Honored at the Emmy Awards, he tells the crowd: "I have accomplished my childhood dream, to be in show business. Everybody should be so lucky to have their dreams come true."

Spanish king apologizes for elephant hunting trip

MADRID (AP)—In an unprecedented act of royal contrition, Spain's king apologized Wednesday for having gone elephant-hunting in Africa while everyday people endure a severe economic crisis.

"I am very sorry. I made a mistake. It won't happen again," King Juan Carlos said, trying to placate a rare wave of outrage against him.

Looking sheepish and using crutches to walk, he spoke as he left a Madrid hospital where he had undergone surgery after breaking his hip in a fall during the hunting trip to Botswana.

The 74-year-old monarch had come under scathing criticism this week after he went on the expensive safari as both Spain and its citizens struggled amid an economic crisis that has worsened by the day.

The trip came to light when the king fell and had to be rushed back to Spain Friday.

A royal palace official denied news accounts that the monarch left the country without telling the government. The official said that on April 2, in a routine weekly meeting with the prime minister, the king told him that the following Monday he would be in Botswana.

Justice Minister Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon said Tuesday that Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy always knows where the head of state is.

The palace official said the king made the trip as a guest of unnamed hosts—so no taxpayer money was spent. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with royal palace policy.

Many Spaniards were dumbfounded that the king could make such an opulent journey—and, to boot, one to hunt elephants even though he is honorary president of the Spanish branch of the World Wildlife Fund—while everyday people brave a 23 percent unemployment rate, a shrinking economy and fears that the country will be the next after Greece, Ireland and Portugal to need a bailout.

For many, the trip made the king's recent comments about how he couldn't sleep at night thinking about the country's unemployed ring hollow.

News of the safari caused an uproar so loud it eclipsed Spain's economic crisis for a few days. Members of most political parties had urged the king to say he was sorry.

AP

Spain's King Juan Carlos prepares to leave a hospital in Madrid Wednesday April 18, 2012. Spain's King Juan Carlos says he is sorry for having gone on African elephant-hunting trip.

The palace official confirmed the apology was unprecedented in the history of Spain's monarchy.

In early reaction, the ruling conservative Popular Party issued a terse statement saying it "shows its respect for a monarchy that is in tune with what the Spanish people expect and need from it."

The royal family has been in the news a lot lately—and not for the best reasons. The king's son-in-law Inaki Urdangarin is a suspect in a corruption case, accused of using his position to embezzle several million euros in public contracts through a not-for-profit foundation. Then, over Easter, the king's 13-year-old grandson shot himself in the foot with a shotgun, even though by law in Spain you must be 14 to handle a gun.

Until now, Juan Carlos had always been a highly respected figure in Spain and almost never came in for criticism from either politicians or the media.

The king rarely speaks out on current affairs in Spain. But with the royal family looking so bad because of the Urdangarin case, in his traditional Christmas address last year, the king made a point of saying "everyone is equal in the eyes of the law." He said he was worried because of what he called growing mistrust of "some of our institutions."

Italy: Funds-short museum burns art in protest

ROME (AP)—For a second day in a row, the director of a contemporary art museum in a small Italian town near Naples has burned a painting to protest a shortage of funds.

Antonio Manfredi set aflame a painting by Neapolitan artist Rosaria Matarese on Wednesday night outside the Casoria Contemporary Art Museum, which is housed in the basement of a public school in the hinterland of the southern city.

A day earlier he burned a painting by a French artist. Both artists had given their consent.

Manfredi had threatened to burn paintings if financial help wasn't promised for the private museum.

Italy's museums have been strapped for funds for decades, but art world officials say the economic crisis has aggravated the plight. Officials of the center-left Democratic Party appealed to the government Wednesday for funds for the museum.

"We survived for seven years without public funds, with few private sponsors," Manfredi told AP. "But we would like to be considered a public service."

The artist, who is also a art teacher, said it was "painful to see my work burning, but it is an important action to save this museum, which is very important for this area." Matarese said the work was worth about (EURO)6,000-7,000 ($7,800-$9,100).

"We did this action to attract attention of artists and institutions," Manfredi said, adding that the museum "is running the risk of dying."

Author faces civil suit over 'Three Cups of Tea'

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP)—Regardless of whether claims are true that author Greg Mortenson fabricated portions of "Three Cups of Tea," neither he nor his publisher can be held liable because the First Amendment protects exaggerations or lies in memoirs, his publisher's attorney said Wednesday.

Penguin Group (USA) attorney Jonathan Herman and attorneys for Mortenson, co-author David Oliver Relin and Mortenson's charity, the Central Asia Institute, asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by four people who bought Mortenson's bestselling books.

Mortenson

The lawsuit was filed after "60 Minutes" and author Jon Krakauer published reports last year that Mortenson fabricated parts of "Three Cups of Tea" and "Stones Into Schools," which recount his efforts to build schools in Central Asia.

The suit claims Mortenson and the others committed fraud, deceit and were involved in a racketeering conspiracy in publishing lies.

Mortenson headed the conspiracy to set himself up as a false hero so that he could sell millions of books and raise tens of millions of dollars for his charity, the plaintiffs' attorney Zander Blewett said.

"Mortenson obviously is the main, main liar," he said. "He has just drafted himself a web of deception ... and used it to raise $62 million."

In arguing to reject the case, neither Herman nor Mortenson attorney John Kauffman addressed the specific fabrication claims.

Herman said the proper place for someone to object to the books is in the sphere of public debate, not in a courtroom to be prosecuted by self-appointed "truth police." "The First Amendment permits someone who writes an autobiography to exaggerate or even lie," Herman said.

U.S. District Judge Sam Haddon did not make an immediate ruling, saying he wanted to consider the arguments further.

"Three Cups of Tea," which has sold about 4 million copies since being published in 2006, was conceived as a way to raise money and tell the story of his institute, founded by Mortenson in 1996.

The book and tireless promotion of the charity by Mortenson, who appeared at more than 500 speaking engagements in four years, resulted in tens of millions of dollars in donations.

The book recounts how Mortenson lost his way after a failed mountaineering expedition and was nursed back to health in a Pakistani village. Based on the villagers' kindness and the poverty he saw, he resolved to build a school for them.

The lawsuit—filed by two California residents, a Montana man and an Illinois woman who bought the books—says that tale is among more than two dozen alleged fabrications and accusations of wrongdoing by Mortenson and the others.

The hearing comes less than two weeks after Mortenson and the Montana attorney general announced a $1 million agreement to settle claims that Mortenson mismanaged the institute and misspent its funds. The agreement removes Mortenson from any financial oversight and overhauls the charity's structure, but did not address the books' contents.

That's where the civil lawsuit comes in.

The plaintiffs are asking Haddon to certify their lawsuit as a class action that would make everybody who bought the books a plaintiff.

They want an accounting of all the money collected form book sales, have that money refunded to the people who bought the books and have additional damages put into a trust for a humanitarian organization selected by their attorneys and approved by the court.

A First Amendment expert called the lawsuit absurd, regardless of whether the books contain fabrications.

Mortenson did not defame or harm anyone in his books and, barring narrow exceptions like national secrets, he can write what he wants and does not have to justify it, said Wayne Giampietro, a Chicago attorney and general counsel of the First Amendment Lawyers Association.

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Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

An Iraq War veteran searches for the woman from a mysterious photo that he credits with saving his life during three tours of duty in this romantic drama adapted from the book by Nicholas Sparks. U.S. Marine sergeant Logan Thibault (Zac Efron) was serving his country overseas when he happened across a discarded photo of a beautiful woman. An inscription on the back read "Keep Safe," yet the photo revealed no clues about either the subject or her whereabouts. Upon returning home to civilian life, Logan conducts his own research and discovers that the woman's name is Beth (Taylor Schilling) and that she cares for dogs at a small-town kennel. Before long, Logan manages to get a job at the kennel, and sets his sights on winning Beth's heart. But it won't be easy because Beth's past experiences have made her wary of relationships. Meanwhile, as Logan works to earn Beth's trust, a dark secret from her past threatens to derail his hope for a happy future together.

Three Stooges

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Will Sasso, Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos
Comedy • Rated PG

The Cabin In The Woods

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Richard Jenkins, Bradley Whitford
Thriller • Rated R

American Reunion

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan
Comedy • Rated R

Wrath Of The Titans

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mirror Mirror

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Julia Roberts, Lily Collins
Fantasy • Rated PG

The Hunger Games

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

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Lawsuit claims 'Bachelor' show discriminates

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Two black men are taking "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" to court with a lawsuit that claims the reality shows are blocking contestants of color from starring roles.

Nathaniel Claybrooks and Christopher Johnson filed a federal lawsuit in Nashville Wednesday against the popular TV shows claiming they are engaged in a pattern of racial discrimination that intentionally excludes people of color. The Nashville men said at a casting call in August that they were given scant consideration compared to white men seeking a leading role for "The Bachelor."

Claybrooks said white applicants were given far more time and consideration during the interview process.

"I only wanted a fair shot at the part," said the soft-spoken Claybrooks, a 39-year-old college graduate and electric company meter reader who owns several small businesses. "Looking back at how I was treated at the casting call last year, it was clear that that wasn't possible. I never even had a chance."

Their attorneys said it is the first racial discrimination lawsuit filed against a reality show. It does not ask for a specific dollar amount of damages, but it does propose to make major changes in how people are seen on TV.

The two men say that after 10 years and a combined total of 23 seasons of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette," neither show has featured a single person of color in a central role. The reality show features about 25 prospective brides competing for the heart of a single guy. The gender roles reverse in its sister show, "The Bachelorette."

AP

Christopher Johnson, right, answers questions at a news conference as pictures of contestants from the television show "The Bachelor" are shown on a screen at left on Wednesday, April 18, 2012, in Nashville, Tenn.

Both shows have come under fire in recent years for not having enough diversity.

The lawsuit names Michael Fleiss, the creator of the shows, as well as ABC, Warner Horizon Television, Next Entertainment and NZK Productions. Calls and emails to Fleiss' publicist and an email to an ABC publicist were not immediately returned.

Warner Horizon Television released a statement late Wednesday evening saying the complaint is baseless and without merit.

"We have had various participants of color throughout the series' history, and the producers have been consistently—and publicly—vocal about seeking diverse candidates for both programs. As always, we continue to seek out participants of color for both `The Bachelor' and `The Bachelorette,'" the statement reads.

The lawsuit claims that white applicants are featured prominently because of a calculation that "minorities in lead roles and interracial dating in unappealing to the shows' audience."

"The refusal to hire minority applicants is a conscious attempt to minimize the risk of alienating their majority-white viewership and the advertisers targeting that viewership," the lawsuit says. "Nevertheless, such discrimination is impermissible under federal law."

Critics have said the shows do not have diverse leading men and women because a segment of Americans aren't ready to see interracial courting and romance on primetime television. Creator Fleiss has publicly said that the shows' producers have tried to be more inclusive, but for whatever reason, minorities aren't applying.

James Bond novels to be reissued by Amazon.com

NEW YORK (AP)—James Bond has a new American publisher: Amazon.com.

The online giant has acquired rights from the late Ian Fleming's estate for North American rights to his classic spy novels in paper and e-book editions, including "Dr. No" and "From Russia With Love."

The books will be available from Amazon as of this summer. Independent stores and Barnes & Noble Inc. have usually declined to stock works published by Amazon, a top retail competitor.

Amazon has steadily expanded its publishing program over the past few years, signing up such celebrities as Penny Marshall and Billy Ray Cyrus and setting up imprints for a wide variety of genres. The agreement with novelist Ian Fleming's estate is for 10 years.

Kitty Kelley writes 'heartwarming' text on Kennedy

NEW YORK (AP)—Kitty Kelley's next book project will be "heartwarming." Promise.

The author of gossipy best sellers about Frank Sinatra, Jacqueline Kennedy and others is providing the text to "Capturing Camelot," a collection of photographs by her friend Stanley Tretick.

Tretick, who died in 1999, covered the White House for Look magazine while John F. Kennedy was in office. He took many pictures of the president and his children that helped define JFK's image as a family man.

Thomas Dunne Books is releasing "Capturing Camelot" in November. The publisher announced Wednesday that Kelly, who manages Tretick's estate, would contribute an "insightful, heartwarming essay" about the photographer and the president.

Dove Awards returns to Atlanta for second year

ATLANTA (AP)—The Dove Awards show for Christian and gospel music returns for the second straight year to Atlanta and organizers hope to hold another successful and inspiring event.

Music artists ranging from Yolanda Adams, Natalie Grant to rapper Lecrae are expected to perform at the awards show, which will be taped Thursday at the Fox Theatre in downtown Atlanta. The show will air on April 24 on GMC, formerly the Gospel Music Channel.

Singer Jason Crabb, who is up for artist of the year, leads all nominees with eight. Last year, Crabb and the group Point of Grace joined Francesca Battistelli in claiming three Doves apiece.

"Whether I win or not, I'll be happy with what I get," said Crabb, who will also look to win his first male vocalist of the year award.

Laura Story is up for six nominations and Lecrae received five nods for the show, which has run for 43 consecutive years. Story started off the year strong, winning her first Grammy for her single "Blessings" in February.

Other expected performers include R&B singer Ruben Studdard, Mandisa, The Issacs, Jamie Grace and Donnie McClurkin.

"This is going to be a great experience," said Lecrae, whose label Reach Records also has three other artists nominated for Dove Awards. "The recognition alone means a lot to us, because we're doing it independently and in a non-traditional way. So we're grateful to be recognized."

Kirk Franklin, who recently collected two Grammys and two NAACP Image Awards, hasn't won a Dove Award since 2007. He'll seek his first male vocalist of the year with Crabb, Christ August, Chris Tomlin and Steven Curtis Chapman.

Actor David Mann of Tyler Perry's sitcom "Meet the Browns" and Christian comedian Chonda Pierce will co-host the show.

Judge won't dismiss 'Desperate Housewives' suit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has refused to dismiss Nicollette Sheridan's lawsuit over the demise of her role on "Desperate Housewives."

City News Service says Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Allen White urged the parties Wednesday to continue settlement talks but set a new trial for Sept. 10.

A jury deadlocked 8-4 in favor of Sheridan's claim after a trial last month.

Sheridan sued ABC/Disney and series creator Marc Cherry for $6 Million for wrongful termination after her character, Edie Britt, was killed off in a 2008 episode. She seeks punitive damages.

Sheridan claimed her role was eliminated because she complained that Cherry struck her in the head during an on-set dispute.

Cherry said he merely tapped her on the head for artistic direction and the character's death was a creative decision.

Mom who caused daughter's injury now must help her heal

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My two children were in a terrible car accident and were both airlifted to a children's hospital. My son was released two weeks later, but my daughter is still there, suffering from traumatic brain injury.

Abby, I was driving the car. Why can't my daughter have the life I took away from her? Why is she being punished and not me?

ANGUISHED MOTHER

DEAR ANGUISHED: You're asking a question that philosophers have pondered for centuries—why bad things happen to good people. In many cases the answer is simply "fate."

While you feel your daughter is being punished instead of you, I say the guilt you're carrying IS punishment and it is not healthy for you or your child. Please don't waste time flogging yourself, because your daughter needs you. Counseling may help you to come to terms with what happened. I hope you'll consider it, as you will need every ounce of strength you can muster to help her in the months ahead.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16 and well below the average height for females. It bothers me a lot. I'm treated like a 5-year-old. I get picked up all the time, and it's awkward talking to people because they look straight down at me —and they never let me forget it.

I try to act cool about it, but honestly, I'm losing sleep over it. I'm really self-conscious, and when I get upset people just laugh at me and say I'm "cute." What should I do?

LOOKED DOWN UPON IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LOOKED DOWN UPON: No one has the right to pick you up or touch you in a familiar way without your permission. If this is happening at school, tell the principal about it because it could be classified as a form of bullying. It will then become the school administrator's job to make clear to your classmates that their behavior is not appropriate. If it's happening outside of school, your parents should be told so they can help you put an end to it.

P.S. If you work to develop your mind, you can accomplish what many short people have done—compensate by becoming a mental giant. Do that, and you'll become a role model that people of every size will look up to.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I are in a serious relationship. Not long ago we got on the topic of marriage and what we are looking for. He comes from a religious family and I do not. His mother says if we don't get married in a church with a religious ceremony, she won't consider me her daughter-in-law and we won't be a married couple.

I want a civil ceremony, something outside and casual. Thankfully, my boyfriend agrees with me. We're just not sure how to deal with his mom and her point of view. What should we do?

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE IN NEW YORK

DEAR LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: What you should do depends upon to what degree you want to placate his mother. Having the casual ceremony you want in the setting of your choosing, and afterward having your union blessed in a clergyperson's study, might be a workable compromise.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What is a polite way to say: "My husband is NOT a bum; he's a hardworking, stay-at-home dad until he can find a job that offers not only benefits, but also enough extra money to afford child care, and it's none of your business"?

I BRING IN THE DOUGH, HE BAKES

DEAR BAKER'S WIFE: Don't get angry. Tell the person, "My husband is a very hard worker. His JOB took a vacation."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS! NOT A SINGLE PART OF MY HORO-SCOPE CAME TRUE!
MY POLICIES WEREN'T IMPLEMENTED AND CIRCUMSTANCES DIDN'T TURN IN MY FAVOR! JUST THE OPPOSITE, IN FACT!
WHAT WENT WRONG?! I THOUGHT THIS STUFF WAS BASED ON PLANETS AND STARS! HOW COULD THOSE BE MISREAD? WHAT KIND OF SCIENCE IS THIS?!
I'M SURE ANY SCIENTIST WOULD GIVE YOU A CATEGORICAL ANSWER.
MAYBE TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE WILL RUN A CORRECTION AND APOLOGY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WELL...UH...I...UH... UM...YOU KNOW... GEE...UM...
BYE
I WAS TRYING TO LEAVE LIZ A VOICE MAIL
YOU REALLY SHOULD WORK WITH NOTES
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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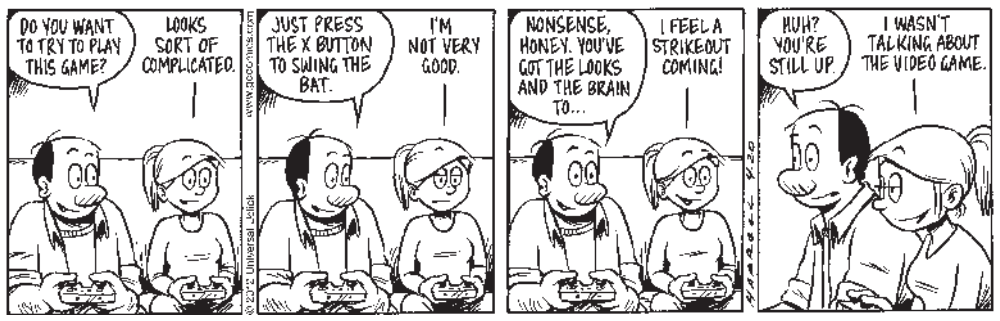
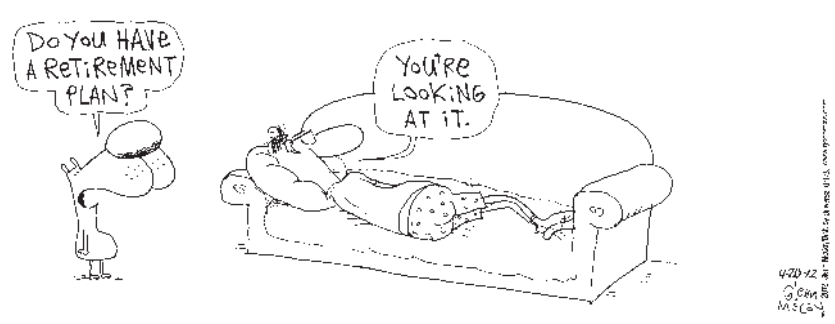
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DO YOU WANT TO TRY TO PLAY THIS GAME?
LOOKS SORT OF COMPLICATED.
JUST PRESS THE X BUTTON TO SWING THE BAT.
I'M NOT VERY GOOD.
NONSENSE, HONEY. YOU'VE GOT THE LOOKS AND THE BRAIN TO...
I FEEL A STRIKEOUT COMING!
HUH? YOU'RE STILL UP.
I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THE VIDEO GAME.
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

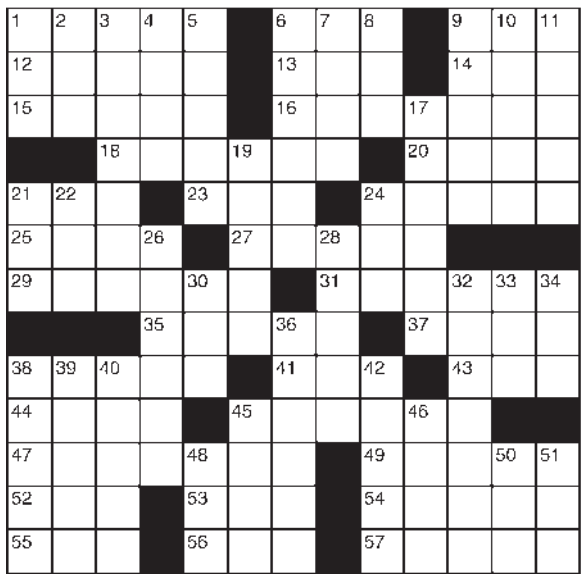
ACROSS
1 Paddock parents
6 Two-timer
9 Illustrations
12 Tolerate
13 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
14 Fresh
15 Earth tone
16 "Halo" singer
18 Beast
20 TV remote button
21 Have
23 Enthusiast
24 Dud
25 Indian royal
27 Ship of the desert
29 "The Godfather" star
31 Christmas carol starter
35 Singer Shore
37 Therefore
38 Eagle's nest
41 Toothpaste type
43 Current measure, for short
44 Pharmaceutical
45 Psychiatrist
47 "Material Girl" singer
49 Idaho's capital
52 Chowed down
53 — -relief
54 Showed again
55 Neither mate
56 Suitable
57 Cheer up

DOWN
1 Long March leader
2 Easy as —
3 "Take a Bow" singer
4 First place
5 Letter line
6 Poolside structure
7 Explorer Tasman
8 Desk-calendar page
9 Per — (yearly)
10 Right-hand page
11 Seventh-grader, usually
17 Brunch entree
19 Georgia city
21 Sphere
22 Series of skirmishes
24 Started
26 Rainbow component
28 "Real Time With Bill —"
30 Gaming cube
32 "Hips Don't Lie" singer
33 Belly (Sl.)
34 Mind-reader's claim
36 Shocked
38 Madison Avenue employee
39 Lyric poet's Muse
40 Less courteous
42 Cuba — (cocktail)
45 Child's play
46 Yule refrain
48 Cagers' org.
50 Perched
51 Away from WSW

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	H	A	H		C	O	B		P	H	I	I
P	O	C	O		R	U	E		S	A	N	E
E	A	R	N		O	R	T		E	L	S	E
C	R	E	E	D	S		A	D	U	L	T	S
			S	O	S			E	D	O		
D	A	F	T		B	E	L	L	O	W	E	D
E	G	O			O	R	O			E	R	A
W	A	L	L	O	W	E	D		E	D	G	Y
		L	E	N			G	U	Y			
S	L	O	G	A	N		I	P	E	C	A	C
I	O	W	A		O	W	N		L	U	K	E
A	B	E	T		M	A	G		I	R	I	S
M	O	D	E		E	N	S		D	E	N	T

Yesterday's answer 4-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joey Lawrence, 36; Carmen Electra, 40; Jessica Lange, 63; Ryan O'Neal, 71.

Happy Birthday: Limit what you share. The less people know about what you are up to, the easier it will be to finish what you start. A unique approach to how you earn a living will help you utilize your skills more efficiently. Temptation may grab your attention, but you don't have to let it be your demise. Your numbers are 6, 17, 24, 32, 36, 44, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let the little things get to you. Focus on being productive and accomplishing what you set out to do. A partnership will turn out to be better than anticipated once you sort out who does what. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Recall financial experiences you have weathered in the past and you will find a way to cut costs and regain your balance economically. Keep your plans a secret until you have everything in place. Progressive action will pay off. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Charm mixed with a couple of brilliant ideas will win favors and put you in the running for an interesting proposition. Love is on the rise, and doing something a little different with someone special will enhance your relationship. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let your creative side take over and you'll come up with an interesting way to help others. A partnership will gain strength if you share your thoughts and make suggestions. Don't allow impulsive people to interfere. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will gain power if you pick up additional skills or knowledge. Challenges will add excitement and motivation to your engagements. Moderation will far outweigh overkill. Love is highlighted, and romantic encounters will be spontaneous. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Easy does it. You will have plenty of options, so don't take the first one that comes along. You will do better if you take your time and look at all the possibilities before you make a commitment to anyone or anything. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Go where the action is. You will shine if you get to put your skills, services or intellect to good use. Love is in the stars, and taking part in something you enjoy will lead to meeting someone who has common interests. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A partnership opportunity will motivate you and inspire a creative approach to what you are trying to accomplish. Revisit an old project and you will find a way to resurrect it. Profits can be made if you follow through. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Confusion, delays or detours while traveling can be expected. Focusing on home, family and having fun will enhance your love life and improve your emotional, financial and physical well-being. A change to your residence will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be careful what you wish for. Not everyone will be happy with your decisions or how you express what you want. Keep a low profile, but do your best to make improvements at home that will benefit everyone around you. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look at your skills, talents and qualifications and you will come up with an interesting way to make some extra cash. Love and romance are in the stars, and an encounter with someone special will lead to a better lifestyle. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep your thoughts a secret. An emotional discussion will not lead to a solution that is in your best interest. Someone from your past may confuse you by making suggestions that aren't likely to develop or promises that won't be kept. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, trendy and creative. You are a powerhouse.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				7	8		3	6
6	5							
	9	3					4	
	7					8		
		4		1		5		
		5					9	
	4					6	1	
							5	3
5	2		3	6				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	8	1	6	2	5	3	9
5	6	1	4	9	3	2	7	8
2	3	9	7	5	8	6	4	1
8	5	4	3	2	6	9	1	7
6	1	7	8	4	9	3	2	5
3	9	2	5	1	7	8	6	4
7	8	5	2	3	1	4	9	6
1	2	6	9	8	4	7	5	3
9	4	3	6	7	5	1	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LUCIO DALLA (1943-2012) **Solution: 8 letters**

S	T	P	M	A	R	Z	O	S	U	R	A	C	I	B
A	O	R	I	S	K	A	N	A	T	A	M	P	A	A
N	S	N	K	A	I	R	A	L	O	V	U	N	M	R
R	C	I	G	C	N	I	L	O	A	P	D	O	O	A
E	A	A	N	W	R	O	T	C	A	E	R	I	R	C
M	N	Q	M	G	R	A	N	U	L	E	C	T	U	L
O	Z	U	U	B	E	I	Y	A	R	U	I	A	O	A
P	O	I	S	O	I	R	T	A	(L)	S	B	L	T	R
U	N	L	I	L	N	O	M	(E)	T	I	I	E	A	I
L	E	A	C	O	G	O	(E)	I	R	F	M	N	Z	N
E	O	Z	I	G	R	(F)	C	N	E	M	A	T	Z	E
G	A	Z	A	N	A	S	U	I	N	E	G	T	A	T
E	B	A	N	A	N	A	R	E	P	U	B	L	I	C
N	R	J	O	I	D	U	T	S	E	C	S	I	P	V
D	O	N	I	R	E	L	L	A	B	A	L	L	A	D

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Actor, Amen, Amore, Aquila, Artistic, Balla, Ballerino, Banana Republic, Band, Bologna, Cambio, Canzone, Cara, Caruso, Ciao, Clarinet, Feel, Genius, Grande, Icon, Jazz, Legend, Life, Lucio, Luna, Lupo, Mare, Marzo, Matana, Milano, Musician, Nuvolari, Paoli, Piano, Piazza, Pisces, Pupi, Risk, Sanremo, Singer, Songwriter, Studio, Talent, Tosca, Tour, Vita

Yesterday's Answer: Kaddish

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• 5-Liner	**$24**	**$39**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$24**	**$42**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$36**	**$57**

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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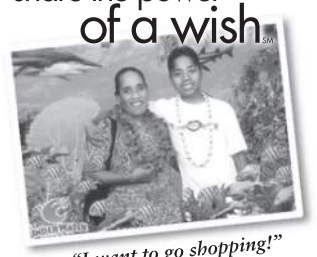

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Saipan Tribune

Harden stars as Thunder dents Suns hopes

PHOENIX (AP)—Oklahoma City's James Harden scored a career-high 40 points, including making 5 of 8 3-pointers, to lead the Thunder to a 109-97 win over Phoenix on Wednesday that dealt a blow to the Suns' playoff hopes.

Kevin Durant added 29 points for the Thunder, who stayed half a game behind San Antonio in the fight for the top playoff seed in the Western Conference.

Phoenix's loss, coupled with Utah's' victory over Portland, moved the Jazz half a game above of the Suns for the West's eighth and final playoff spot.

Jared Dudley scored 21 points for Phoenix.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard James Harden reacts to a three pointer against the Phoenix Suns during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, April 18, 2012, in Phoenix.

Celtics 102, Magic 98

In Boston, Paul Pierce had 29 points and a career-high 14 assists as Boston held off Orlando and clinched at least a tie for the NBA Atlantic Division title.

Boston has a 3-1/2-game lead over New York. The Celtics have three games left, and the Knicks have four.

Division winners are guaranteed to be seeded no worse than fourth in the conference and would avoid Chicago or Miami in the first round of playoffs.

The Magic cut a 91-78 lead to 91-90 with 3:04 left. But they came no closer.

Clippers 104, Nuggets 98

In Denver, Kenyon Martin helped beat his old team with a tip-in and blocked shot in the final half-minute, leading Los Angeles past Denver.

Martin tipped in Chris Paul's missed jumper with 27 seconds left and the game tied, then blocked at the other end with 20 seconds remaining. After a timeout, Paul made two free throws to make it a four-point game.

The Nuggets got back within two with 16 seconds remaining, but Mo Williams replied with two free throws and Paul, who led the Clippers with 21 points, capped the game with an uncontested dunk.

Mavericks 117, Rockets 110

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter, steering Dallas to a win over Houston, whose playoff ambitions took another hit.

Nowitzki sank two 3-pointers to trigger a 20-6 run that took the game away from the visitors.

The Rockets lost their fifth straight game, matching their longest losing skid of the season.

Heat 96, Raptors 72

In Miami, LeBron James scored 28 points before taking the fourth quarter off as a below-strength Miami warmed up for the playoffs with an easy win over Toronto.

James made 12 of his 15 shots for Miami, which also got 13 points from Mike Miller. The Heat played without Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, both given the night off, yet still pulled away in the second half.

James Johnson scored 18 points for the Raptors, who tied franchise-record low by scoring only 23 points in the second half.

Miami hosts Chicago on Thursday. The Bulls hold a 2-1/2-game lead over the Heat in the Eastern Conference standings.

Spurs 127, Kings 102

In Sacramento, San Antonio made it five straight wins with a victory at Sacramento.

Tiago Splitter and Gary Neal scored 17 points each for the Spurs, who used their reserves extensively all game, and won in Sacramento for an eighth straight time and remained just ahead of Oklahoma City for top seed in the West.

Isaiah Thomas had 21 points and eight assists for the Kings, who have dropped eight of nine.

Lakers 99, Warriors 87

In Oakland, Los Angeles bounced back from its heaviest loss of the season and beat Golden State.

A night after a 21-point defeat by San Antonio, the Lakers quickly got on top of the Warriors, taking a 17-point lead in the second quarter.

Andrew Bynum had 31 points and nine rebounds, and Pau Gasol recorded a triple-double of 22 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for Los Angeles.

Klay Thompson scored 17 points for Golden State.

Jazz 112, Trail Blazers 91

In Portland, Devin Harris had 27 points, including a career-high six 3-pointers, as Utah continued to jockey for a playoff spot with a victory over Portland.

The Jazz, with just three games to play, are locked in a battle for the remaining playoff spots in the Western Conference with Houston, Phoenix, Dallas and Denver.

Gordon Hayward added 23 points for the Jazz, who led by as many as 31 points.

Wesley Matthews had 21 points for the Blazers.

Hawks 116, Pistons 84

In Atlanta, Tracy McGrady led six players in double figures as playoff-bound Atlanta built a 37-point lead in the first half on the way to a rout of Detroit.

With their highest-scoring half of the season, the Hawks were up 72-42 at the break in the first of five straight home games to close the regular season. Atlanta is battling with Boston and Orlando to be the final Eastern Conference team with home-court advantage.

Grizzlies 103, Hornets 91

In Memphis, the hosts clinched a playoff berth with a win over New Orleans.

Rudy Gay scored 26 points and Mike Conley added 20 for the Grizzlies, who shot 51 percent.

Rookie Jerome Dyson led the Hornets with a career-high 24 points but could not prevent the team losing for the first time in five games.

Knicks 104, Nets 95

In Newark, Carmelo Anthony scored 21 of his 33 points in the first quarter, setting up New York's win over New Jersey.

Continuing his impressive form run that has compensated for the absence of Amare Stoudemire and Jeremy Lin, Anthony hit his first six shots in the Knicks' last visit to its neighboring state. The Nets are relocating to Brooklyn next season.

Anthony surpassed 30 points for the third straight game. He shot 11 of 21, going 5 of 7 on 3-pointers.

Bulls 100, Bobcats 68

In Charlotte, Chicago moved a step closer to securing the top seed in the East playoffs by thrashing woeful Charlotte.

Richard Hamilton scored 22 points in just 24 minutes for the Bulls, making his first seven shots, including four 3-pointers.

Despite playing without leading scorers Derrick Rose and Luol Deng, the Bulls shot 48 percent from the floor and connected on 9 of 19 shots from 3-point range.

Kemba Walker scored 16 points for the Bobcats, who've lost a franchise-record 18 straight games. If they lose their final five games they will finish with the worst winning percentage in NBA history.

76ers 103, Cavaliers 87

In Cleveland, Jrue Holiday made five 3-pointers and scored 19 of his 24 points in the third quarter as Philadelphia beat Cleveland and tightened its grip on a playoff spot.

Holiday made four of his 3s during a stunning 24-2 run when the Sixers blew open a tight game. Andre Iguodala added 19 points as Philadelphia snapped a three-game losing streak, and increased their lead over Milwaukee in the standings. However the Sixers play their final four on the road, including a game against the Bucks next week.

Cavaliers rookie Kyrie Irving scored 9 points in his first game back after missing nine straight with a sprained shoulder.

Wizards 121, Bucks 112

In Washington, Jordan Crawford equaled a season-high with 32 points as Washington inflicted a damaging defeat on Milwaukee.

Despite being freshened by three days off, the Bucks lost and fell 2-1/2 games behind Philadelphia in the fight for the last playoff spot in the East.

John Wall had 14 points and 10 assists for the Wizards.

Monta Ellis had 31 points for Milwaukee.

Colts keep quiet but make decision on No. 1 pick

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indianapolis Colts have decided who to take with the No. 1 draft pick.

They're just not planning to let the secret out until April 26.

After months of speculation, scouting and scrutinizing, Colts general manager Ryan Grigson finally told reporters Wednesday that the Colts have a plan for their first No. 1 overall selection in 14 years.

"We've known for a little while. We've done all our due diligence," Grigson said during a 30-minute news conference. "Unless there's an unforeseen problem or something like that, we know what we're doing."

Team owner Jim Irsay has repeatedly said the team will choose Peyton Manning's successor, presumably either Stanford's Andrew Luck or Baylor's Robert Griffin III, the Heisman Trophy winner. If the Colts take Luck, the Washington Redskins are expected to take Griffin with the second pick next Thursday night.

Luck was expected to go No. 1 in 2011 before returning to school for his fourth college season. His resume looks like an exact replica of Manning's—both stayed in school one year longer than expected, both finished as Heisman Trophy runner-ups and both had fathers who played quarterback in the NFL.

While the Colts sent a larger contingent of scouts to Griffin's pro day in Texas than Luck's pro day at Stanford, Luck had a personal workout for the Colts and traveled to Indianapolis for a personal interview. Griffin was advised by his agent to do neither and, apparently, it wasn't the only reason Griffin didn't come to town.

"You get to a point where you know what you're going to do," Grigson said.

Grigson would not say whether the Colts have started negotiating with either player.

In an email sent to The Associated Press, Luck's agent, Will Wilson, declined to comment on whether the Colts had told him of their decision or whether contract talks had begun. Luck's father, Oliver, also did not provide those answers. Luck has been attending classes at Stanford, and is trying to finish one architectural course that is offered only in the spring.

"I have not had any communication with any of the folks with the Colts. I stay out of all that," Oliver Luck said in a phone interview. "And I'll keep my conversations with Andrew private."

Whether the Colts would start talking about a contract over the next week, in hopes of having a deal in place before next Thursday, remains unclear.

"We've kicked it around. I don't know what the true advantage is to go early," Grigson said. "At this point, we're focused on picking the guys."

The Colts are still trying to figure out where they are in their massive offseason overhaul, too.

Grigson's comments came less than an hour after the Colts wrapped up another voluntary workout at the team complex, a practice that included perennial Pro Bowl receiver Reggie Wayne, who usually stays in Miami for workouts until the team's mandatory offseason mini-camp.

Wayne altered his traditional plans because of all the changes Indy has made.

Grigson replaced the father-son front office tandem of Bill and Chris Polian in January, then brought in new coach Chuck Pagano to replace the fired Jim Caldwell. Pagano has almost an entirely new staff, and some players have even found new spots for their lockers.

The biggest change, of course, is not seeing No. 18 around town.

Manning was released March 7, a move designed to help quicken the rebuilding process, and eventually signed with Denver. Two days later, the Colts cut a handful of other veterans including defensive captains Gary Brackett and Melvin Bullitt, Pro Bowl tight end Dallas Clark and running back Joseph Addai. Longtime center Jeff Saturday, emerging receiver Pierre Garcon and backup tight end Jacob Tamme all left in free agency.

And those who returned, like Wayne, are still trying to get acclimated to their new surroundings.

"I'm moving around, can you believe that? It's the first time in 11 years." Wayne said, drawing laughter. "My game plan is the same whoever throws the ball—catch and make something happen with it. I met Drew Stanton, I know that guy."

Rangers extend hot streak, beat Red Sox

AP

Texas Rangers' Mike Napoli, right, is congratulated at the plate by David Murphy after his two-run home run against the Boston Red Sox during the fourth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

BOSTON (AP)—Texas' Mike Napoli hit a two-run homer and drove in four runs to power the Rangers to a 6-3 win over the Boston Red Sox on Tuesday for their sixth-straight win.

It was Napoli's fourth home run in three games to go along with a two-run double.

Texas starter Derek Holland (2-0) pitched seven solid innings, allowing four hits and striking out seven.

The Red Sox dropped their third consecutive game, and Josh Beckett (1-2) took the loss despite holding the Rangers down a night after they hit six homers in an 18-3 win.

White Sox 8, Orioles 1

In Chicago, slugger Adam Dunn broke out of his slump by hitting a three-run double as Chicago beat Baltimore and ended a three-game skid.

Dunn had been 0 for 15 against left-handers this season before the opposite-field hit.

A.J. Pierzynski homered for the White Sox while Jake Peavy (2-0) pitched seven sparkling innings with eight strikeouts and no walks.

Orioles starter Tommy Hunter (1-1) matched a career high with eight strikeouts, but was charged with eight runs in 5 2-3 innings.

Rays 12, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Luke Scott hit a grand slam and Ben Zobrist added a two-run homer to lead Tampa Bay over Toronto.

Scott hit his third career grand slam as the Rays broke the game open with a six-run ninth.

Tampa Bay starter David Price (2-1) allowed two runs in 5 2-3 innings. He is 4-0 in five starts at Rogers Centre.

Blue Jays starter Brandon Morrow (0-1) allowed six runs in six innings and matched a career worst by giving up three homers.

Twins 6, Yankees 5

In New York, Justin Morneau hit two mammoth homers to power Minnesota to a narrow win over New York.

The Twins scored four times in the first inning against Hiroki Kuroda (1-2). The Japanese gave up 10 hits in 4-1/3 innings.

Minnesota starter Jason Marquis threw 87 pitches in five innings and left with a 6-4 lead, earning his first win with his new team.

Brewers 3, Dodgers 2

In Milwaukee, Milwaukee's Nyjer Morgan scored on a fly ball in the 10th inning to give Milwaukee a win over the Los Angeles Dodgers, the second late-inning thriller in a row for the Brewers.

With the bases loaded and one out, Ryan Braun lofted a shallow fly ball to center field. Morgan took off for home despite the third-base coach urging him to stop at third. He was called safe on a close play at the plate—although replays showed that he may have been tagged out.

Reliever Matt Guerrier (0-1) took the loss for the Dodgers.

Kameron Loe (1-0) earned the win.

Braves 14, Mets 6

In Atlanta, Braves' Dan Uggla ended his struggles against New York pitcher R.A. Dickey by hitting a two-run homer that contributed to the Braves win over the Mets.

Uggla had been 0 for 24 against the knuckleballer before his home run capped a four-run third and gave Atlanta a 6-3 lead.

Juan Francisco homered in the second and Freddie Freeman hit a two-run drive in the fifth that ended the game for Dickey (2-1), who allowed eight runs in 4 1-3 innings in his worst outing in four years.

Atlanta has won seven of eight since opening the season with four losses, including three straight in New York.

David Wright had three RBIs, tying Darryl Strawberry for the Mets' career record at 733.

Atlanta's Cristhian Martinez (1-0) gave up one run in two innings to win in relief.

Nationals 3, Astros 2

In Washington, the hosts rallied in the eighth inning to overtake Houston and notch a third straight win.

Jayson Werth drew a bases-loaded walk and Wilson Ramos hit a sacrifice fly to put the Nationals ahead. Washignton drew three walks in the inning and scored twice.

Houston lost its fourth in a row.

Cardinals 11, Reds 1

In St. Louis, Jaime Garcia pitched seven effective innings and hit a two-run triple as St. Louis cruised past Cincinnati.

Garcia (2-0) allowed only one run and was aided by four double plays. He also helped himself, hitting a triple off the wall in center field in the sixth inning to make it 7-1 and end the night for opposing pitcher Mat Latos (0-2).

St. Louis' Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer, his fifth of the season and second of the series.

Pirates 2, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Neil Walker's two-out bloop single in the eighth inning fell between three fielders in shallow center field, driving in Clint Barmes for the go-ahead run that gave Pittsburgh victory over Arizona.

The Pirates got back-to-back two-out singles from Barmes and Andrew McCutchen in the eighth off Diamondbacks starter Daniel Hudson (1-1) before Walker's lucky hit off reliever David Hernandez.

Pittsburgh closer Juan Cruz allowed a leadoff single in the ninth but did secure the save.

Giants 1, Phillies 0, 11 innings

In San Francisco, Melky Cabrera hit an RBI single in the 11th inning to give San Francisco victory over Philadelphia in a classic pitchers' duel that looked like it might go all night.

Cliff Lee threw 10 scoreless innings for the Phillies and Matt Cain pitched nine for the Giants.

Cabrera came through with the winning hit off Antonio Bastardo (0-1), who had allowed Brandon Belt's one-out single up the middle. Belt then advanced when the third baseman fumbled Angel Pagan's grounder.

The game lasted just 2 hours, 27 minutes. And it left luckless Lee still searching for his first win of the season after three starts.

Marlins 9, Cubs 1

In Miami, Hanley Ramirez homered for the third game in a row as Miami beat slumping Chicago.

Ramirez put the Marlins up 4-0 with a two-run homer in the fifth inning. He started the season slowly, but in the past four games has gone 9 for 16 with nine RBIs to hike his average from .133 to .283.

Miami starter Mark Buehrle (1-2) pitched eight innings for his first victory with his new team, allowing only one run.

Rockies 8, Padres 4

In Denver, Juan Nicasio threw 6 1-3 solid innings for his first win since returning from a broken neck, lifting Colorado over San Diego.

Nicasio (1-0) gave up seven hits as he made his second start at Coors Field since last August, when he was hit in the temple by a line drive and suffered a fractured skull along with the neck injury.

He earned a spot in the rotation with a strong spring—a remarkable recovery considering doctors feared he might not walk again.

Nicasio also singled home a run, the first RBI of his career. That hit finished the night for Padres starter Clayton Richard (1-1), who didn't have his best command as he surrendered eight runs in 5 1-3 innings.

'No, no, no': Hard sell for possible Clemens juror

WASHINGTON (AP)—A man whose response to jury duty was "No, no, no, no, no" and who said he'd rather be sleeping was nevertheless found qualified to remain a potential juror in Roger Clemens' perjury trial, which won't finish seating a panel before Monday.

Meanwhile, the court took time out Wednesday to debate whether Clemens' former teammate Andy Pettitte could identify his source of human growth hormone as the trainer who allegedly supplied Clemens with performance-enhancing drugs. U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton said he'd try to resolve the issue Thursday.

The reluctant potential juror, a self-described unemployed 27-year-old, said he was a fan of basketball but not baseball - "It's not my sport" - and didn't know who Clemens was. The prospective juror had plenty of company: Lots of Washingtonians questioned since jury selection began Monday said they had never heard of the seven-time winner of the Cy Young Award. Several of those who had heard of him couldn't name any teams he played for (the Red Sox, Blue Jays, Yankees and Astros).

Clemens lawyer Rusty Hardin seemed a little concerned when the 27-year-old said he'd rather be asleep and he felt "groggy." But when Hardin asked the man if he could focus on a full day of testimony, the would-be juror replied, "Be wide awake."

Clemens is on trial on charges he lied at a 2008 U.S. House hearing and at a deposition that preceded it when he denied using steroids and HGH during his 24-season major league career. The first attempt to bring the case before the court ended in a mistrial last July when prosecutors played a videotape for the jury that contained a short segment of inadmissible evidence.

Some potential jurors in the new trial were familiar with that but didn't have all their facts straight. One thought last year's mistrial resulted from inappropriate contact with jurors. Another mistakenly thought that the 2007 Mitchell Report on drug use in baseball contained references that Clemens' wife took injections ahead of a photo shoot for Sports Illustrated.

Both made the cut. Clemens' lawyer Rusty Hardin argued the second man "has mixed in his mind" various pieces of information about the case, and Hardin asked Walton to disqualify him. But the judge said, "He seems to be an intelligent man," and kept the juror in the pool.

The court has been working for three days to narrow the initial jury pool of 90 to 36, from which the final 12 jurors and four alternates will be selected. The extra 20 are needed because Clemens' lawyers are allowed to strike 12 candidates and prosecutors eight—without giving any reason.

By the end of the day Wednesday, 28 potential jurors had survived the first cut. Walton hoped to pick the other eight Thursday and have a jury empaneled Monday. The trial is in recess Friday.

On the trial testimony issue, Pettitte is expected to say that Clemens acknowledged using human growth hormone in 1999 or 2000. Clemens famously told Congress in 2008 that Pettitte "misremembers" their conversation. Pettitte is also expected to say he tried HGH himself a few years later.

Prosecutors want Pettitte to be allowed to testify that the source of his HGH was Clemens' former strength trainer, Brian McNamee, who says he injected Clemens with steroids and HGH.

Clemens' lawyers claim that would be "classic `guilt by association' evidence." Invoking their client's choice of vocabulary, they wrote in a court filing, "The government apparently misremembers what the defense has said repeatedly about Mr. Pettitte."

"We welcome Mr. Pettitte's appearance, when he will presumably testify, as he did in his deposition, that he `must have misunderstood' Mr. Clemens," the lawyers wrote.

Prosecutor Steven Durham said in court that the source of Pettitte's HGH was crucial to the story. Durham noted that Pettitte and Clemens frequently worked out together with McNamee over several years.

"You cannot strip out half of the narrative and have it make any sense whatsoever," he said.

Walton returned to jury selection Wednesday afternoon and said he planned to come back to the Pettitte dispute Thursday.

Summitt steps aside, Warlick new Tennessee coach

TERESA M. WALKER
AP SPORTS WRITER

Pat Summitt, who won more games than anyone in NCAA college basketball history, stepped down Wednesday as coach of the Tennessee Lady Vols, less than eight months after revealing she had early-onset dementia.

"I've loved being the head coach at Tennessee for 38 years, but I recognize that the time has come to move into the future and to step into a new role," the 59-year-old Hall of Famer said in a statement issued by the school.

Longtime assistant Holly Warlick will take over for Summitt, who will become head coach emeritus.

A news conference is scheduled Thursday afternoon at the school in Knoxville.

When the Lady Vols lost in a regional final to eventual national champion Baylor, Warlick's tears were a telltale sign of how draining the season had been and also that it likely was Summitt's last game.

"She is an icon who does not view herself in that light, and her legacy is well-defined and everlasting," athletic director Dave Hart said. "Just like there will never be another John Wooden, there will never be another Pat Summitt. I look forward to continuing to work with her in her new role. She is an inspiration to everyone."

Summitt will report to Hart in her new role while assisting the program she guided to eight national titles since taking over in 1974.

Tennessee said that Summitt's responsibilities will include helping with recruiting, watching practice, joining staff meetings, helping coaches analyze practice and games and advising the Southeastern Conference on women's basketball issues and mentoring players.

"Pat's vision for the game of women's basketball and her relentless drive pushed the game to a new level and made it possible for the rest of us to accomplish what we did," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said in a statement. "In her new role, I'm sure she will continue to make significant impacts to the University of Tennessee and to the game of women's basketball as a whole.

"I am thrilled for (Warlick) as this opportunity is well deserved and Pat will be a huge asset to her moving forward," he said.

Warlick, a three-time All-American who played for Summitt, was her assistant for 27 years.

Hart said he watched Warlick grow this season under what he called "unique circumstances" and that she is deserving of the head job.

AP

In this March 25, 2011, file photo, Tennessee head coach Pat Summitt watches practice for an NCAA women's college basketball tournament regional semifinal, n Dayton, Ohio.

"Her mentor will be available for insight and advice, but this is Holly's team now," Hart said.

Warlick said she was thankful for all Summitt has done in preparing her for this opportunity as her coach, mentor and friend.

"We will work as hard as we possibly can with the goal of hanging more banners in Thompson-Boling Arena," Warlick said.

One of Summitt's former stars, Tamika Catchings, saw the news on TV during a meeting.

"Everyone in the back of their minds was thinking this was going to happen anyway. Holly will do a good job," she said.

Last season, while Summitt devoted more attention to her health, Warlick took the lead during games and handled postgame interviews, while the entire staff handled recruiting and practices. Even so, Summitt still managed to put on her trademark icy stare a time or two during the tournament.

"As I've said many times, Pat Summitt is a pioneer in basketball," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "Her amazing career accomplishments are among an elite group of leaders. Very few people leave a lasting legacy in their chosen professions and Coach Summitt has done just that at the University of Tennessee and in women's basketball. She raised the level of commitment, pride and notoriety of her sport. I am honored to call her a friend."

Summitt's diagnosis came during one of the Lady Vols' most disappointing stretches - by Summitt's lofty standards, anyway. Tennessee hasn't won a national championship since 2008 and hasn't even reached the Final Four, which ties for its longest such drought in program history.

Tennessee's five seniors were part of the team that lost in the first round of the 2009 NCAA tournament, the only time in school history the Lady Vols had bowed out on the first weekend.

Those seniors promised they would win a ninth national championship this season—not just for Summitt, but as center Vicki Baugh put it, " ... for everyone who has Alzheimer's."

But they couldn't make it back to the Final Four, losing to Baylor and Brittney Griner, a player Summitt couldn't convince to come to Knoxville.

Summitt's career ends with a 1,098-208 record, 16 regular-season Southeastern Conference championships and 16 SEC tournament titles.

During her time, Tennessee never failed to reach the NCAA tournament, never received a seed lower than No. 5 and reached 18 Final Fours.

"Words cannot adequately describe the extraordinary career that Pat Summitt has had in the world of basketball," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "She is a model of class and courage, and I don't think that enough can be said for just how much Pat has accomplished in building and elevating women's basketball to its current heights."

Her impact reaches beyond wins and losses. Every Lady Vol player who has completed her eligibility at Tennessee has graduated, and 74 former players, assistants, graduate assistants, team managers and directors of basketball operations are currently among the coaching ranks at every level of basketball.

"You think about the University of Tennessee and you think of Pat Summitt," Catchings said. "You don't think of anyone else. The great players that have come and gone, coaches that have come and gone, but the legacy that she built for herself and for the university. It's amazing how far women's basketball has come. Her legacy isn't over yet."

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19 complete Tinian 65K bike race

Fernando Cacabelos led the finishers in last Sunday's 2012 Tinian Tax Day Bike Ride after timing in at 4:05.31.

Cacabelos and 18 others completed the 65-kilometer course that brought bikers to the trail all the way down Riverside Drive located on the western side of the island and some single track and back road trails on Tinian.

Just about six minutes behind Cacabelos was Norlo Jaco Salem, who clocked in at 4:11.44, while Jimmy Cabay rounded out the Top 4 with his 4:12:55.

In the women's division, Rosalina Lazaro and Marjorie Cabay crossed the finish line together at the 5:23:30 mark to share the top honors in their field. The top placers in each division received $200.

Other finishers were Elgene Shai (4:29:56), Arwin Reyes (4:31:56), Winston Omar (5:10:13), Julian Hofschneider (5:10:39), Vic Cunanan (5:10:40), Edgar Jabino (5:17:08), James Manglona (5:19:47), Zack Hofschneider (5:19:58), Nino Neypes (5:33:32), James Clemente (5:33:32), Romeo Libut (5:57:26), Welma Reyes (6:03:00), Dawn Sarmiento (6:03:23), and Richard Lazaro (6:03:23).

Two other bikers joined the weekend race that started at Suicide Cliff, but unfortunately Gaudencio Neypes and Jose Reyes did not finish due to flat tires.

It was the first time Tinian hosted the Tax Day bike race, which was originally dubbed as April Fools Tinian Bike-a-Thon, and the event was held in preparation for the Tour de Tinian in February next year. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

HUSTLERS

From Page 36

of victory back on April 10.

In Junior Division play from Sunday, the Natibu Sports Association Tanapag-Falcons (3-3) fended off the IT&E-Fielders (2-4), 5-4, while the DPS-Dare Program-Leep-Enforcers (2-4) routed the Saipan Shipping Company-Jets (3-4) in six innings, 11-1.

BIG DIVISION
Hustlers 14, Hunters 4

Hustlers awoke in the third inning with four runs built primarily off a pair of RBI triples by MacJarrel Espina and Brian Camacho.

The Hustlers then added a run in the fourth off an error before trudging ahead, 8-0, in the top of the fifth off five hits. Camacho drilled an RBI double and McGary Scaliem an RBI single.

The Hunters finally made some noise in the bottom frame with four runs, but Hustlers reliever Kevin Villagomez held it together on the mound for the last two innings.

Camacho batted 3-for-4 with two RBIs and three runs and three stolen bases.

Lions 8, Fielders 4

The Lions leaped in front, 5-0, in the top of the first off a string of four doubles and a base smash.

Ricardo Dela Cruz, Greg Iskawa, Leroy Regis, Richard Dela Cruz, and Danny Cruz all connected with the first pitch they saw and all came around to score.

The Fielders responded with two runs in the bottom frame, but endured a drought until the last inning of the match.

Lions' Ricardo Dela Cruz hustled out an inside-the-park homer in the second, Danny Cruz came in off an error in the third, and Regis bagged an RBI single in the fourth.

Richard Dela Cruz was issued the win after giving up zero earned runs off seven hits and a walk with two strikeouts through five and a third innings.

Hustlers 4, Fielders 3 (Game 1)

The Hustlers were gifted a 1-0 head start thanks to an error in the first inning, but Fielders' Peter Lieto hammered an RBI double and scored off an error to put his team briefly in front.

The Hustlers immediately went back on the attack and mustered a couple runs to reclaim control in the bottom fame.

Tim Rabago got plunked and scored off an error and Kevin Villagomez drove in Jeremy Lizama with a base rip.

Fielders' Carl Camacho led off the fifth with a triple, but was nailed at the plate trying to get his team's engine started in the top of the fifth.

His teammate Patrick Tenorio fired out an RBI double to pull the Fielders to within a run, but Hustlers closer Villagomez got it done in the last two frames.

The Fielders left four runners stranded at third base, but in addition to Camacho, the Hustlers gunned down Marvin Ngeskebei at the plate two times, including a nice laser from leftfielder Kenta Castro in the sixth inning.

Hustlers 12, Fielders 2 (Game 2)

The Fielders then took a healthy dose of Hustlers ace pitcher Brian Camacho.

Camacho dealt four scoreless innings, while his team built a 6-0 cushion.

Jeremy Lizama bagged an RBI single in the opening frame, the crew hammered four hits for three runs in the second, and then added two more in the third from a triple by Kevin Villagomez and an RBI double from Camacho.

Moreover, MacJarrel Espina bagged an RBI single and Manny Flores an RBI double in the second inning, while Villagomez scored off a passed ball in the third.

The Hustlers then officially blew the lid off the game with a six-run explosion in the fifth off seven hits and kept the mercy-rule lead intact in the bottom frame.

Lions 7, Hunters 6

The Hunters built an early 4-0 lead in the first two innings more or less from some untimely errors.

However, the Lions finally pulled their heads out and pulled to within a run in the bottom of the second inning.

The pride loaded the bases for Russel Hocog who cleared them with a booming triple before getting nailed at the plate.

The Hunters went 1-2-3 to start the third and the Lions went in front, 5-4, in the bottom frame off a couple of base hits by Greg Iskawa and Leroy Regis.

The Lions added another run off an error in the fourth, but the Hunters locked it up at 6-all with a pair of RBI singles by Palmerson Monkeya and Clayton Aguon.

Lions' Leo Blas lifted a sacrifice fly in the bottom fame to put the Lions back in control and its closer Regis struck out the side in the sixth and held strong in the final stand.

JUNIOR DIVISION
Falcons 5, Fielders 4

Some early errors by the Falcons allowed three runs to the plate in the first two innings, but a one-out triple by Falcons' Chris Sablan in the third lifted their spirits in the next frame.

The Falcons elected for an early pitching change with one out in the third and called Joseph Lifoifoi to the mound, which was a good call because the kid did a great job keeping the Fielders in check for the long haul.

They then worked around for four runs off three hits, highlighted by a two-RBI single by Sablan to end the fourth and held on for the win.

Lifoifoi nabbed the win with zero earned runs off two hits and struck out nine through 4 2/3 innings.

Enforcers 11, Jets 1

The Enforcers racked up eight runs off nine hits right out of the gate; Kaleb Takao and Phillip Sablan bagged RBI singles, Darrion Jones busted an RBI double, and Cedric Camacho finished the opening frame with a two-RBI double.

Pitcher Darrion Jones had little trouble holding off the Jets from the hump, aside from an earned run, off two hits, in the bottom of the first inning.

He went on to allow just one other hit in five scoreless innings that followed before an early finish. He also had four walks and four strikeouts.

Notably, at the plate Jones also bashed an inside-the-park home run in the sixth inning and finished just a base hit short of the cycle. He went 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two other runs.

LOPSIDED

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and Ryota Ito logged the two other goals for MP United Silver in the opening 45 minutes of the game.

In the second half, Ryan Kim started things out for MP United Silver before Johner toyed with defense of Shirley's FC anew and drained three straight goals. Brian Lee also scored in the second half, while Joyner capped his awesome game with another goal in the closing minutes.

Paire 8, Tan Holdings 1

Paire also showed no mercy against Tan Holdings to gain its fifth win in six games.

Six different players from Paire made it to the scoreboard. Joel Fruit had a pair, while John Auther, Gideon Borja, Scott Kim, Billy Hinson, and Hunter Jewell added one apiece.

Tan Holding's FC's lone goal came from Christopher Aninzo, who found the back of the net in the first half where Paire led, 4-1. Tan Holdings dropped to a 1-1-4 slate.

Matansa 5, MP United Blue 1

In the first game at the Oleai pitch last week, Matansa downed MP United Blue.

Sean Perez led the victory, drilling four goals. Carlson Cruzat scored the other goal for Matansa, which improved to 4-1-1 record.

Perez broke the ice early with his goal in the sixth minute, while Cruzat had his lone goal 15 minutes later. Perez then earned his second goal in the 29th minute to give Matansa a 3-0 halftime lead.

In the second half, Perez was still unstoppable, as he nailed his third goal in the 48th goal and the fourth 10 minutes later.

MP United Blue's only goal came in the second half, courtesy of Amir Abes (63rd minute).

BOYS U18
MP United 2, Paire 1

In the first game in the boys U18, MP United edged Paire to remain undefeated in six games.

Chris Park drew first blood for MP United with his goal in the 20th minute before Paire's Zhi Lin tied the game at the break with a goal in the 37th minute.

Both teams struggled early in the second half before Seoung Joon Lee broke the deadlock with a goal in the 69th minute and MP United hung in there for the win.

Paire fell to a 3-0-3 slate.

Tan Holdings FC 8, Matansa 0

In the other U18 match, Tan Holdings clobbered Matansa.

Tanapon Unsa had a hat-trick in Tan Holding's second win in six games, while Marc Gerald Mora contributed two. Kautong Omengkar, Isaac Anderson, and Thanyakorn Konkoed logged one apiece.

With the win, Tan Holdings retained third place, while Matansa is still at the bottom and is winless in six games.

EXTRA

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PIC Tournament (March), and the CNMI Junior Championship, which will be held on May 28 and 29 and May 5 and 6. They earn points and are ranked once the five local competitions are completed and the Top 4 players in the boys and girls U15 and 12 age groups gained NPQ slots, while the Top 2 in the U18 division also earned tickets to the qualifier.

In the NPQ, which Guam will host anew in June this year, the CNMI junior netters will be up against representatives from the host, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Then the Top 2 finishers in the U18 age group and Top 4 in the U15 and U12 in the NPQ will make up North Team that will battle the East and West squads in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji, this August.

Last year, the CNMI had 11 players on the North Team. The list included U12's Carl Dela Cruz, Moris Villanueva, Negahr Rastguiy, and Tammy Ackerman, U15's Christian Miller, Jake Lee, Melody Johnson, and Mikayla Lopez, and U18's Rafael Jones and Thea Minor, who all placed in the Top 4 in the 2011 NPQ. Theecel Minor completed the roster after getting a wild card in the girls U18.

Meanwhile, Race is reminding interested participants in the CNMI Junior Championship that they have until only April 21 (6pm) to turn in entry forms and fees. Events to be played in the championship include the boys and girls U10, U12, U15, and U18 singles, mini tennis (co-ed), and U13 and U18 doubles.

BLUE

From Page 36

ings, but dropped its last two games in the elimination, while QQ placed fourth with its 5-4 mark winning two of their last three matches.

QQ then made it to the finals after ousting the hard-fighting Crystal Pure in overtime, 78-75, and stunning pennant champions Sunrisers, 94-86. Blue Haus took the other finals berth after eliminating Shirley's Coffee Shop, 72-60, and surviving Andhok's Grille, 65-63.

All the statistics in the previous games will not matter anymore, as Blue Haus and QQ plays only in a one-game finals tomorrow. It will be back to square one for the two finalists, as they are pretty much evenly match, especially on the guard and small forward spots.

QQ has the explosive Elgene Mangali, who averaged 24.5 points in the first two playoff games. Backing him up are Rolly Paraiso, Lerio Pagarao, and Wowie Abuel, who all averaged in double figures in their first two playoff wins. Pagarao and Abuel averaged 12.5 and 11.5 points in the first two victories. Paraiso normed 18 points, but he is more of a defensive gem than an offensive asset for QQ, as shown in his hustle on the boards.

QQ also has four players averaging in double figures in the first two games of the playoffs with Elmer Esdrelon leading the team with 17, Junar Guiab posting 12.5, and Brendon Talania and Bernard Aquino tallying 12 and 11, respectively. Jomary Tumaquip only scored five points in the first two wins, but was steady at the point guard spot for Blue Haus.

With both teams having dependable backcourt starters, the battle in the paint will be crucial and this is where Blue Haus may have a slight edge with the veteran Guiab and lanky forwards Badong Camacho and Leo Itaas on its roster. Larry Sharry, who missed a lot of games in the regular season due to injury before returning to the playoffs, can also pull off a surprise, along with valuable reserve Sam Fernandez.

With Blue Haus having the minor advantage in the paint, QQ will need quality minutes from reserve guards Dan Mateo, Edwin Camacho, and Marlon Sison, who scored 11 points off the bench in their upset over the Sunrisers. Mateo and Camacho combined for eight points and did a great job pressuring Sunrisers' ballhandlers and hustling for loose balls.

Arthur Montes, which made a couple of big plays in the closing minutes of their win against QQ, will have to hold his ground against Camacho and Guiab to boost QQ's championship chances, while George Cruz's nose for offensive rebounds will give his team a lift. Melvin Capalad, who is coming off an injury, can also be an asset for QQ because he is familiar with the tendencies of Blue Haus players, as he had played with them in past years.

Meanwhile, before the finals, the Sunrisers will take on Crystal Pure in the battle for third place at 6:30pm.

Masters hold off D-9ers, 7-6

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Masters grinded out a 7-6 victory over the D-9ers in Wednesday's Saipan Major League Baseball matchup held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win evened the Masters' win-loss card to 1-1, while the D-9ers are still in search of a win after two tries.

The season continues at the Tan Ko Field at 6:30pm on Monday night with the Masters taking on the IT&E Fielders (1-2).

D-9ers struck first in the opening frame when Isaiah Liazama led off with a double and scored off an error.

The Masters answered with four runs to start the second off two hits.

D-9ers called E.J. Tenorio in to relieve starting pitcher Vicente Tenorio after Masters' Smith Regis moved his way around for a quick run.

However, Masters worked him well at the plate and set up a free pass to the plate for Mark Flores and a two-RBI base rip by Mabel Ngirengmeles that scored Ed Santos and Larry Tenorio.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Masters workhorse pitcher Ben Duenas deals a pitch during Wednesday's SML matchup against D-9ers held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

D-9ers battled back and pulled within a run in the bottom frame as Ray Yumul reached off an infield error and came around to score thanks to a wild throw from right field.

The speedy Lizama was the culprit out of the box and he wheeled all the way to third on the play before being driven home by Vincent Cabrera.

The Masters were not discouraged despite its late defensive blunders and tacked up two more runs in the third inning off some costly errors by the D-9ers.

D-9ers regrouped, however and pulled within a run, 5-6, in the bottom of the fourth off a trio of hits by the top if its lineup.

Lizama scored Derick Sablan with an RBI single, while Cabrera and Wally Yumul cranked a couple of base smashes that brought in the second run.

Notably, Masters pitcher Ben Duenas finished strong and gave up just one run in the last five innings of the match. D-9ers' Ben Mesa drove in Emul in the seventh inning, but Duenas stranded their last three runners in the final two frames.

D-9ers' E.J. Tenorio did a good job keeping his team in range, allowing only one run in the sixth inning when Masters' Paul Camacho bashed an RBI double that scored Ngirengmeles, but was eventually replaced by Emul for the last two innings.

Masters' Regis went 0-for-2, but managed three base on balls for two runs. Ngirengmeles swung 1-for-2 with two RBIs, a run, two base on balls, and a hit-by-pitch. D-9ers' Lizama batted 3-for-5 with an RBI and two runs and Emul swung 3-for-5 with a run.

Winning pitcher Duenas went the distance and gave up just one earned run off 11 hits and a bean ball with four strikeouts.

Villafria tops Family Easter Fun Run

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veteran runner Ronald Villafria finished the Garapan Community Development Center's Easter Fun Run in a time of 23:39 to claim the top prize in the 3-mile open division last Saturday along Beach Road.

Just under 30 participants turned out to compete in the open, youth, junior, and family divisions of the event organized by the Division of Youth Services.

They all trekked south from the Garapan Basketball Court along Beach Road to the Quartermaster Road intersection and back.

While Villafria had the fastest time of the day, Dixon Kwon turned in a suprisingly swift time of 30:26 for a respectable second place showing.

He as well as all first place finishers received prize packages made up of a $25 gift certificate from National Office Supply and various grocery items.

The Top 2 place finishers of each division also were presented with prize medals.

Kwon was awarded an IT&E gift bag and a free water park pass at Pacific Islands Club.

The open division was originally open to runners ages 20 to 60, however 16-year-old Kwon stepped up to the challenge.

Youth division winner Kyle Rios, who just turned 13 last month, was right on Kwon's heels at the finish line and turned in a time of 30:31. Taka Borja took second place with a time of 43:30.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
GCDC Easter Fun Run open division winner Ronald Villafria, center with white and blue ribbon, poses with some participants of last Saturday's 2nd GCDC Easter Family Fun Run at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The youth division was open to runners ages 13 and below.

Marianas High School track member Jillana Arada finished the course in 37:40 for top honors in the junior girls division, while her teammate Ann Jeline Manabat settled for second place less than four minutes later after crossing the finish line in 41:15. The junior field was made up of runners ages 14 to 19.

The family division consisted of teams of four and the Borja family made up of Horimoto and Yoko with siblings Taka and Ichiro took home the top prize.

In related news, the GCDC is gearing up for its 1st Anniversary Bash, scheduled for May 6 in Garapan. The event will run all day from 10am to 6pm.

The celebration will feature a mini car show where entrants can compete in the "Best in show" and "Sound off" categories.

Some local elementary student will also compete in a dance off competition and GCDC's current girls basketball league will have its champion crowned.

The girls caging has been undergoing exhibitions matches, however its post season tournament tips off next Friday in Garapan after which the two finalists will be determined heading into the May 6 finale, which is slated for 4pm.

Other forms of entertainment are also expected to be provided as well as various food vendors.

The GCDC would like to thank House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro and Rep. Edmund Villagomez for their continued support of their cause.

For more information, contact the GCDC at 233-8978.

KHS still undefeated in girls fast-pitch

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus shortstop Betty Kanai fields a ground ball in Wednesday's MISO girls fast-pitch softball game against the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins held at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus remain ahead of the defending champion Lady Manta Rays of Saipan Southern High School as both teams pegged wins in this week's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls fast-pitch softball matches held at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

KHS defeated the Marianas High School's Lady Dolphins (0-2), 12-4, on Wednesday to start a winning streak of three in a row, while the Lady Mantas evened their win-loss card to 1-1 after surviving the Mount Carmel School Lady Knights (0-1), 9-6, last Monday.

The season continues at "Tan Ko" Field on Monday at 4pm with top-ranked KHS taking on the Lady Knights.

KHS 12, MHS 4

MHS managed its four runs off two hits in the first inning as Lady Ayuyus pitcher Tracy Pelep struggled to find her zone.

Her teammates picked her up, however, with an eight-run answer off six hits in the bottom frame.

The Lady Ayuyus then tapped reliever Zerah Castro to the mound at the start of the second inning and she shut down the Lady Dolphins for the remaining six innings.

MHS' defense hung around for a couple of frames, but KHS went on to add three more runs in the fourth off another handful of base smashes and a final in the fifth inning for good measure.

KHS' Mikaela Borja swung 2-for-3 with two runs, while Castro, Betty Kanai, and Janelle Brel all batted 2-for-2 with a run.

KHS' Castro had seven hits and a walk through five scoreless innings.

SSHS 9, MCS 6

SSHS worked up an early 5-1 lead in the opening frame off three hits. Cathy Amandus drilled a shot past the shortstop, Keanah Deleon Guerrero belted a triple, and Annalisa Blas lifted a shot to centerfield before making their way to the plate. Tara Ramon and Marlena Castro also came around to score.

Lady Knights' Kim Sablan broke the ice for her team in the bottom frame, but KHS' top of the lineup went on the attack again in the second inning for a couple of more runs off two base rips hammered out by Tamleen Ada-Hocog and Deleon Guerrero, to shoot them ahead, 7-1.

MCS pulled around on five hits in the bottom frame in an effort to battle back, but they ran out of time as the match was declared over after just three innings.

Both teams scored two runs in the third inning, each from three hits.

SSHS' Ramon scored twice, Amandus batted 2-for-2 with a run and a base on balls. Deleon Guerrero and Blas, meanwhile, went 2-for-2 with a run and Ada-Hocog batted 2-for-3 with a run. MCS' Jasmine Che swung 2-for-2 with two runs in the loss.

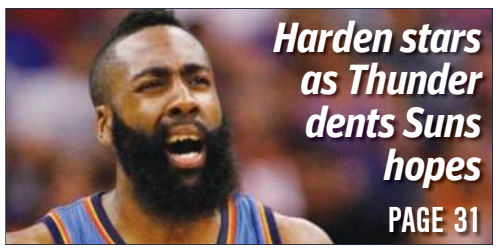
Winning pitcher Amandus allowed five runs off nine hits and four walks with a strikeout.

RGA April Ace set tomorrow

The Refaluwasch Golf Association is holding it April Ace of the month tournament tomorrow, April 21, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course. Show time is set for 11am with 12pm tee off. All member are encouraged to take part in the tourney as only nine monthly Ace qualifiers are left to be determined.

Past Aces include March's Jordan Kosam, February's Tony Rogolfoi, and January's Ki Soo Kim.

For more information, contact Joe Suares at 483-5506, Jess Wabol at 288-1129, or Kosam at 483-4506. Inquiries can also be emailed to cnmirga@gmail.com. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***



Harden stars as Thunder dents Suns hopes

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Rangers extend hot streak, beat Red Sox

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Hustlers playoff-bound after three wins

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Hustlers' Brian Camacho awaits a pitch in their Big League match against the Hunters last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

A trio of wins by Paradise Island Animal Hospital-Hustlers punched its ticket to the playoffs as the Saipan Little League 2012 regular season rounds to a close at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The surge improved the Hustlers' win-loss record to 8-1 and positioned them ahead of defending champion Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces (7-2).

The Hustlers routed the St. Michael's Medical Response Hunters (1-7), 14-4, on Saturday and swept a doubleheader over the IT&E-Fielders (6-4) last Thursday.

They outlasted the Fielders, 4-3, in the first leg and then lit them up under the lights, 12-2, in five innings.

Also on Saturday, the Kagman Lions (2-6) picked up its second win in a row, 8-4, also over a Fielders squad that is still scratching their heads. The Lions, meanwhile, escaped the Hunters, 7-6, for its first taste

See HUSTLERS on Page 34

Extra NPQ slots for CNMI jr. netters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Team was given additional entries to the 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament due to its strong showing in the annual competition for the past several years.

"I have just learned from OTF executive director Patrick O'Rourke that due to our players' excellent performances the last few years, they are allotting the CNMI at least one additional player in each age group this year. This means that we will be able to field at least five players in each of the U15 and U12, as well as four players in the U18. Great news due to all hard working players, their parents, and coaches," CNMI coach Jeff Race said in an email sent to players and their family members.

Race added that they will be able to fill 27 of the 28 slots allotted to the CNMI.

Last year, Race brought 23 players in Guam for the NPQ. Commonwealth players getting NPQ tickets are selected based on their performance in various tournaments here—DFS Tennis Championship (May), Tan Holdings Classic (November and December), Coconut Classic (February),

See EXTRA on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Angelo Jones, the tournament director for next weekend's CNMI Junior Championships, gestures from the baseline during a competition early this year at the AMP tennis courts.

Lopsided wins in boys U15 league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Routs were the theme in Week 6 of the boys U15 division in the 2012 NMIFA Youth Spring League.

MP United Silver recorded the most one-sided victory last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field after crushing Shirley's FC, 13-0. The win was the sixth in as many games for MP United Silver, while Shirley's absorbed its fifth win after six matches.

Despite the absence of coach Norman del Rosario, MP United's offense ran smoothly with Jehn Joyner leading the attack, drilling nine goals. He made the first three goals for MP United Silver and had one more before the first half ended with his team way ahead, 6-0. Dakota Hall

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Matansa and MP United Blue players fight for possession during the second half of their game in the boys U15 division of the NMIFA spring youth league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Blue Haus, QQ dispute DLX title tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Blue Haus and QQ Rent A Car collided in the opening game of the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity Basketball Invitational Friendship League and tomorrow they will close out the season as they square off for the championship.

The title game is set for 8pm at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court with Blue Haus aiming for back-to-back titles after winning the inaugural DLX/Miller Lite caging last year against MDX, 70-43.

Blue Haus started its title defense against QQ on Feb. 11 and won the season opener, 74-64, needing an extra five minutes to thwart the latter. The defending champion went on to finish the regular season with a 6-3 record for third place in the team stand-

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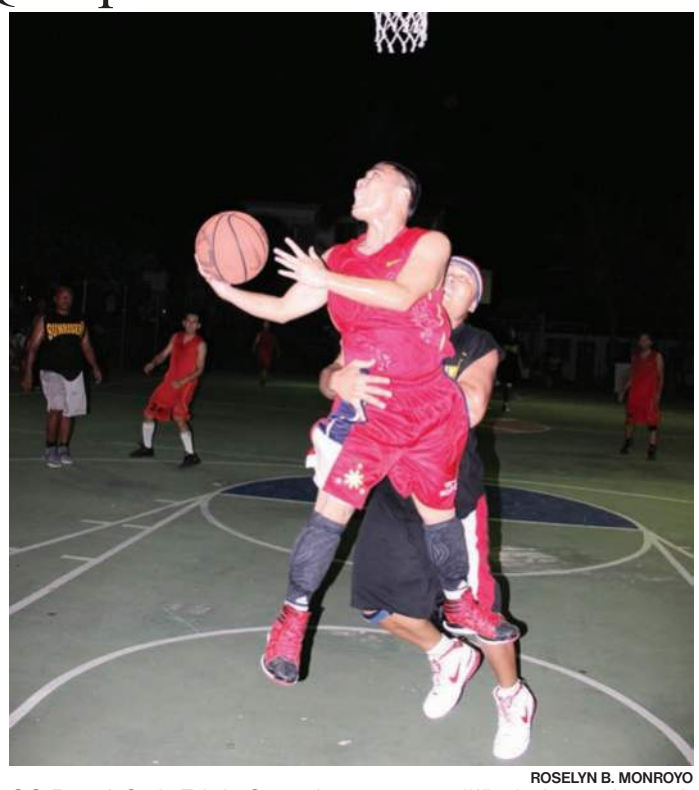

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

QQ Rent A Car's Edwin Camacho attempts a difficult shot underneath the basket against the Sunrisers' Pete Lizama during their semis game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.